

*John Hall Thomas*  
**HERODIAN**  
**OF**  
**ALEXANDRIA**  
**HIS**  
**IMPERIAL**  
**HISTORY**

**OF**  
**Twenty Roman CÆSARS & EMPEROURS**  
**of his Time.**

**First writ in Greek, and now converted into an**  
**HEROICK POEM**

**By C. B. Stapylton.**

---

*— Virtus post funera vivit.*

---

**LONDON**  
**Printed by W. Hunt, for the Author.**  
**M D C L I I**

1  
Dear Robert  
my dear



*An* ADVERTISEMENT.



Peradventure some will say this Labour is  
superfluous this work is already in  
prose, what need this verse come lim-  
ping after; Indeed I confesse all is but  
one dish of meat severally drest, yet we oft see one  
baked and another rost of the same kind (rightly  
sauced and seasoned) is more acceptable then a third  
of a contrary kind which is not so good in quality:  
If here be any thing praise-worthy it belongs to  
*Herodian* that Famous Greek Historian, who was  
the Author, as touching the Translator I suppose he  
did it for his recreation, and for ought I can perceive  
doth not much care whether you give him thanks  
or no, because he hath not told his name: for my part  
that have put it into Rime, if I could, it should have  
been verse; for I doe Ingenuously confesse my selfe  
much obliged to the History, seeing so many mighty  
Monarchs and high Estates one while at the top of  
Fortunes wheele, and anon turned topsy turvy, or cut  
off by an untimely death, hath made me the better  
able to digest my owne misfortunes; I therefore  
thought it better thus harmlesly to spend my va-  
cant houres, whether any one give me thanks or no,  
then to trouble my braines with former losses,  
when neither they or I was guilty thereof: robd and  
undone I was by the rebellion in *Ireland*, and I part-  
ly know what set them awork, yet leave the revenge  
to God; Ascribing unto him all Honour and humble  
Thanks for my present Affliction and miraculous  
Preservation, which I have formerly shewed else-  
where: but of one thing I assure you, if I had part of

my Lands and goods againe, I should imploy my  
selfe (by honest industry) to improve them (as  
formerly I did) and now in making use thereof I am  
now too sensible of that old adage, there goes but a  
paire of sheers betwixt a Poet and a begger.

To say any thing in excuse of Translations I  
think it needlesse to good and generous natures, and  
to the other, with Courtly *Sir Iohn Harrington* (to one  
that said of his excellent Poem it was but a trans-  
lation) I say I will give one but for another as he  
did in one of his Epigrams: yet of your clemency I  
desire you to excuse the plainnesse of my Rimes, be-  
cause I have been by profession a piece of a Souldier  
and not a Scholler. If the matter be not delivered  
faithfully, it would be an invention rather then a  
Translation, therefore whoever will please to try  
one Canto, if he hit the sense and keep the words  
better, the submission is already made: and if any  
marvell to see some Stanza's of eight lines now and  
then intermixt, the best reason I can give you is,  
that where a sentence could not well be comprehen-  
ded in six, I let it run on to eight for the more em-  
phaticall expression as the matter required; if you  
will have another reason, I allude to a Cardinall  
that used to say I and my King. So I say it seemed  
good to me & my Muse, as willing to give you some  
Novelty which you and I observe dayly either for  
better or worse: some nice pallars (of late) would  
not have a verse to end with many syllables, some  
others say it is to find fault with a fat Goose; it is  
enough for me to say that *Sir Phillip Sidney* and  
*Sir Iohn Harrington* both used and affected it. Some  
also doe indeavour hands to asher in their Poems  
which I doe not think mine worthy of, neither  
indeed doe I affect it, or else it is possible it might  
have been done: if the Wine be good it needs no  
bush, I care not for a gandy signe-post it often  
deludes the Expectation. Lastly, I desire two  
things of the courteous Reader, one is to mend  
the

the faults of the Presse; the other, that he will  
 please to remember what is before mentioned touching this  
 Authors long and painful exile out of his  
 Country, with great change of Family, through  
 many imminent dangers and grievous sufferings:  
 This if he Candidly consider he will lesse marvell  
 why these Bookes are not publickly sold, but only  
 presented to such Generous hands as are in  
 their goodnesse sensible of this  
 Authors misfortune.



# THE APPROBATION

of this History, by divers Au-  
 thors of Eminent Place  
 and Esteeme.

Dionysius the Patriarke, in the 99. Chapter of his  
 Greeke Bibliothicke.

HERODIAN neither swales with Superfluity, nor  
 omits ought that is Necessary: in a word, he is not  
 inferior to any, for all Historicall Perfections.

HENRY STEPHAN in his Latine Dedicatory  
 Epistle to Sir PHILLIPS SIDNEY (of Glorious  
 Memory prefixt before HERODIANS Greeke  
 History.

THE reading of Herodians Historicall Worke, will  
 be a matter of singular Profit and Pleasure to the  
 Courtiers of this Age; for he represents (as in a Glasse)

my Lands and goods againe, I should imploy my  
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 be a matter of singular Profit and Pleasure to the  
 Courtiers of this Age ; for he represents (as in a Glass)

the Emperours of the Empire and their Courts; with  
Comedies, Tragedies, and Tragicomedies. It is most  
certain, that he was both an Eie-witnesse and an Eare-  
witnesse of many things which he writ. No Roman  
History did ever comprise such wonderfull Changes hap-  
ping in the Roman Empire, in so small a Circle of Time.

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POLITIAN in his Epistle to P O P E  
INNOCENT the 8.

**H**AVING be thought my selfe which of all the Greek  
Historians I should translate (according to your H.  
Command) I resolved at last on HERODIAN  
that Excellent Writer, who having long continued in  
the Emperours Courts, and being very aged, undertooke  
to write the History of his Time: which he hath per-  
formed, not only eloquently, but withall most frankly and  
faithfully. Your Holinesse shall find in him great vari-  
etie of Persons and Actions, many strange things, and  
frequent Examples of Fortune, reeling (as it were)  
sometime one way, sometime another: as also wonderfull  
wise Counsels, accompanied with unexpected Events, and  
sage Precepts, delivered in a stile full of Asaety and  
sweetnesse: lastly, a very Magazin of Moralltie; and  
(as it were) a Mirrour of Humane Fate: whence all  
men may select choise Documents conducing to the Weale  
and Advancement of a private and a publike Estate.

---

M. D. W H E A R, the publike Professor of History:  
in the most Noble University of Oxford.  
in his Booke,

De Ratione & Methodo legendi Historias, pag. 34.

**H**ERODIAN, a most polite and judicious Au-  
thor, hath with singular Eloquence described the  
Actions and lives of many Cæsars and Emperours.

### *The Heads of Herodians Induction.*

**D**iverse (he saith) that have taken paines to compile Histories) have rather affected Learning and coynd language to gild and embosse their discourse, then to mine and search out the truth which is the soul of History.

Others too much transported with spleen of one hand, and partiality of another, as touching Tyrants, Princes, Cities &c. have not rightly pourtrai'd her Image.

For this part he hath not writ out of vulgar affes, but out of his owne knowledge and faithfull Collections.

He doubts not but the rare intelligence of what he writes will be very acceptable, for in two hundred years before the first Emperour *Augustus* till *Marcus Aurelius* he begins with, there hath not been so many various changes and events, as of civill and forraign Warr, Pestilence, Famine, Earth-quakes, lives of Princes, and Tyrants, so strange and unceuth, which former Ages could not parallell.

Rome had in sixty yeers more Emperours then was proportionable for the time, some young and dissolute, some of riper years more fit to govern and manage: the disparity of their years and conditions were Accompanied with diversity of manners and Actions; the particulars exactly observed wee come now to specific.

The

# THE NAMES OF the Roman *Cæsars* and Empe- rours, whole Acts and Lives are

Recorded by *Herodian*.

An. Dom.

163 **MARCUS AURELIUS** } The two first  
**M. ANTONIUS** } Consorts in the  
**L. VERUS** } Roman Empire

182 **COMMODUS**.

195 **PERTINAX**.

195 **JULIAN**.

196 **NIGER**, } *Asia*  
**SEVERUS**, } *Italy*  
**CLAUDIUS**, } *Gallia* once.

**ANTONINUS**, }  
**GETA**, } Brothers and Colleagues.

**MACRINUS**, and  
212 **DIADUMENIANUS** } *Cæsar*, (his Son).

230 **ANTONINUS**, or rather *severus Antoninus*.

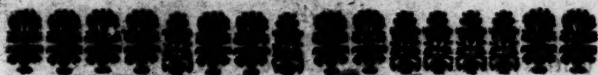
234 **ALEXANDER**.

**MAXIMINUS**,  
**QUARTINUS**,  
237 **GORDIAN** the Father,  
**GORDIAN** his Son.

**MAXIMUS**, }  
239 **ALBINUS**, } Colleagues.

241 **GORDIAN**, Nephew to the elder **GORDIAN**.





CANTO I.

THE ARGUMENT.

Marcus his Reigne and Life is here related,  
The breeding of Prince Commodus his Son,  
And how his Daughters he bestow'd and staid;  
His Clemency the Nobles all had won;  
Yet doth he doubt on Commodus his Heir,  
And on his death-bed doth the same reveal.

1.

I Have not Homer's Wit, or Virgil's Skill,  
To gild the Acts that I do now recite;  
Nor can, with Ariosto, frame my Quill  
To rock the Reader in such deep delight;  
Yet take it here as well as I am able,  
This is a Truth, much of the rest a Fable.

2.

The Emperour Marcus many Daughters had,  
Yet of his Sons there were but only twaine,  
Verissimus did dye a little Lad,  
Commodus the elder he sought to traine  
In Vertue, Learning, and the liberall Arts,  
Sending for Tutors from all forraigne parts.

3.

When as his Daughters were to Marriage bent,  
Best men that were his Senators among,  
For Sons in Law to match with them he sent,  
Regarding not what wealth did them belong,  
So that they were with Excellence endowed,  
Gods of the mind were Chiefe by him Allowed.

B

With

## Herodians Imperial History.

4.

With Princely vertue he was richly clad,  
 Antiquities both excellent and rare,  
 Or greater knowledge no where could be had;  
 For he with Greeke or Roman might compare,  
 As witness well his Writings, Wise and Sage,  
 Which extant are untill this present Age.

5.

A Princee he was so sweet and debonaire,  
 Of Temper meet, to all men that he saw  
 His hand he gave, and Language passing faire,  
 Charging his Guard to keep no one in awe,  
 An Emperour he was both wise and stout,  
 Just were the Words and Edicts he set out.

6.

So grave he was and continent of life,  
 That Famous men for Learning great did flourish,  
 To imitate their Princes without strife,  
 Men do delight when they such vertues nourish,  
 Now whatsoe're he did in Peace or War,  
 In North or East, or Barb'rous Countries far,

7.

Already that in writing is Committed  
 By men of Learning and of worthy fame:  
 Yet those Occurrences must not be omitted  
 Which I observed as I went and came;  
 For he deceas'd, \* I office had in State,  
 Then what I know my task is to relate.

\* Herodian an  
 Officer of  
 State.

8.

Marcus now weakned was with Toyle and care,  
 Worne out of Date with old decrepid Age,  
 A grievous sicknesse fell unto his share  
 When in \* Pannonia he did last engage;  
 But when he saw recovery was past,  
 Prince Commodus did make him sore Agast.

\* New Austria,  
 and Hungary.

For

For being young and in the heate of youth,  
Perchance puff'd up with High Imperial power,  
Might soone be drawn to set aside the Truth  
By Delators in some unlucky houre;  
To take his swing, and rove abroad at Random,  
Good Arts and Exercits for to Abandon.

10.

Such is intemperance when we do begin  
To Riot once in pastime meate or drinke,  
Then shake we off the yoke of Discipline,  
On sensuall \* Blandishments we only thinke;  
Good *Marcus* this had often known before,  
Which makes him now his Sons Estate deplore.

\* *Senecca* calls  
Sensuality the  
Soveraigne  
good of Beasts

11.

He mighty was in wisdom, and profound,  
Calling to mind the Princes that were young,  
Such as for vertue were no whit renown'd,  
Or ranged were the middle sort among:  
*Denise* of *Syracuse* astray did wander,  
The Successors eke of great *Alexander*.

12.

\* *Sicilian* Epicure did give reward  
To such as Novelties could best invent,  
*Alexanders* Captaines had no regard,  
But Honour lost and all good Government.  
Infamous was the Life of \* *Protony*,  
Surpassing bounds of Civill Modesty.

\* *Dionysius*

\* See *Justin*,  
lib, 24.

13.

*Antigonus* would *Bacchus* personate  
With Ivy wreath; and Greene boughs on a Spear  
(Instead of *Macedonian* Coronate)  
He did in place of Kingly Scepter beare:  
Examples such as these did *Marcus* strike,  
Fearing his Son might hap to do the like.

14.

That dreadfull \* *Nero* came within his mind,  
 Vile Butcher he so to dissect his mother,  
 A savage Act unfitting Humane kind;  
*Domitian* was much what such another;  
 The shapcs these Monsters wore did oft appeare,  
 As he revolv'd his mind 'twixt hope and feare.

15.

The Germane Nation likewise he did doubt;  
 Not being all intire at his devotion,  
 Were sometimes Newter, often in and out,  
 As they were pleas'd, or as they lik'd the Motion;  
 These Barb'rous people do themselves withdraw,  
 Save when his noble presence did them Awe.

16.

He therefore doubts they will despise his Son;  
 His youth he thinks cannot this Nation quell,  
 Though often times they have by me been won,  
 Yet now I feare they will againe Rebel;  
 Such is their guise, when they occasion see,  
 They'l scorne his youth, though they were rul'd by me.

17.

Thus in these Moods good *Marcus* is perplext,  
 He calls his trusty Friends and doth implore 'em;  
 I meane his Lords and Kinsmen that were next,  
 And sets the Prince, young *Commodus* before 'em;  
 Lord with what Horror his good heart is vext,  
 For feare the young man should not keep decorum;  
 Then raising up himselfe upon his Couch,  
 He makes a speech that nearly did them touch.

18.

*Marcus* Speech No marvell now if you bemoane my Case,  
 For men are Led by Nature to lament  
 Their Kinsmen, but things Look with such a Face,  
 Being upon their uttermost extent;  
 So dolefull are they to consideration,  
 They now excite our due Commiseration.

Twixt



19.

Twixt you and I yet is more speciall Band,  
You know full well how I have lov'd you dearely;  
Love may like Love (in right) againe demand,  
This is the Cause that I have call'd you neere me,  
That I may Judge in this most dangerous season  
If I preferre'd you by the rule of reason.

20.

If so I gave to you deserved honour,  
And did advance you with the best occasion,  
She is a Lady when you looke upon her  
That will admit no Fraudulent Evasion:  
I challenge then that you to me be gratefull,  
To faile therein I guesse you deeme it hatefull.

21.

You see your Pupill entring Aprill Age,  
My Son that now must wade in broken Seas;  
You Pilots are, I know, both grave and sage,  
I pray you see he take not too much ease,  
Lest he misguide and steere a naughty Course,  
So shipwrack will invade with open force.

22.

So many Fathers therefore be to him,  
By Counsell good, and your discreet instruction;  
No worldly Treasure can be such a lim  
Him to support, preventing sad destruction:  
The Subjects Love is Princes surest guard,  
When worst are downe and best men are preferrd.

23.

Best way to Reigne well, and to live secure,  
Is not by Cruelty to purchase feare;  
Let mildnesse win, and Clemency endure,  
For then best Servants love their Sovereign deare:  
So Jealousie and Flattery's set apart,  
Severity can gaine no gentle Heart.

B 3.

But

24.

But when they're led by loving inclinations,  
 They never will withstand his just desire,  
 Yet if oppress'd by his unruly passions,  
 Such misdemeanour lets them all on fire:  
 Then what doth he delecte, what gold, what gain,  
 That may do what he list, yet will refrain?

25.

Wherefore if you by prudent Admonitions  
 Shall plant in him a care for to do well,  
 And oft inculcate with your repetitions  
 To mind him of this Tale that I do tell,  
 A worthy Prince he will be of Conditions,  
 And you your selves for this shall bear the bell.  
 Immortall so my memory you make  
 If you agree this friendly course to take.

26.

No sooner did good *Marcus* end his speech,  
 But swooning ripe he backward fell in bed,  
 Which made all present there full loudly shriech  
 Distracted-like, supposing he was dead;  
 One day he \* lived, then was of paine releas'd,  
 Giving this kind farewell he so decess'd.

\* *Marcus* dies  
 April 17. Anne  
 Dom. 181.

27.

Leaving behind a redolent perfume,  
 A seemly patterne for the future Age;  
 No after Monarch can hold fairer Roome,  
 For wiidome high, and eke for Learning sage,  
 Better to none may be Applied this Doome;  
 Valiant in War, in Peace as free from Rage;  
 So, soone as known that his deare life did faile,  
Both Commons and the Army weepe and waille.

Yes,

28.

Yes, in the Roman Empire all throughout  
This Message was receiv'd with weeping teares;  
He was deplor'd both heere, and far about;  
At his deccase encreased was their feares.  
A temp'rate Prince he was without all doubt,  
Such ought to be that wicdy Scepter Steeres;  
Some call'd him Guide, some Emperour, some Father;  
Then him to lose, their own lives they had rather.

29.

Nor any was deceiv'd, or did outrun  
His noble Praise and worthy Commendation;  
But now his Funerall Obsequies were done:  
It seemes it was their guile and Countrey fashion  
The Counsell should present th' old Emp'rours son,  
To satisfie the Armie's Expectation;  
And Largeesse money on them to bestow,  
To presse, as 'twere, the service that they owe.

30.

Then order was that Heralds should proclaime  
By Counsell grave, and also from the Prince,  
That they the Common Benefit did aime,  
Of negligence none should them once convince;  
And that the Souldiers, altogether met,  
Might heare and see that there should be no let.

31.

When Commodus had done his Sacrifice,  
In midst of Campe ascending up his Throne,  
Attended by his Kin and Councell wise,  
For Fathers losse making most grievous moane:  
Yet that in him there might be no neglect  
Began his Speech, and said to this effect.



## CANTO II.

### The ARGUMENT.

Marcus now dead young Commodus succeeds,  
Unto the Army by a Speech doth make;  
His Courtiers shew their black and evil deeds,  
Which makes the Grave Pompeianus to quake:  
Stately Triumphs young Commod' posts to Rome,  
Whom deare they Love, recording Marcus Tombs.

O fickle Fate that never steady bides,  
Thou wheel'st about to weave the web of woe,  
What haste thou mak'st to wound us in our sides,  
The Noble *Marcus* now is laid full Low:  
How we lament, and have done ever since,  
We set aside to tell what said the Prince.

*Commod's  
speech.*

That you and I have Cause to mourne alike  
I make no doubt, for both have equall Losse;  
Since that my Sire the hand of death did strike,  
It is to both of us a heavy Crosse;  
You know full well he Father was to all,  
Then both alike we ought to moane his fall.

He call'd me fellow rather than a Son,  
Esteeming that to be a Souldiers Note;  
By Nature one; the rest by Valour won.  
How oft he did into your Armes promote  
My Tutelage, that you might be my guard,  
I hope therefore you will his Love reward.

The



4.

The elder may repute me foster child,  
The younger term'd my Schoolfellows in armes;  
How oft he hath us taught with counsell mild,  
Whereby we might avoyd eniuing harmes:  
He brought us up in vertues exercise,  
The better to resist when dangers rise.

5.

Now after him hath fortune made me Prince,  
Not factiously or yet by usurpation;  
For I in Court was bred and born long since,  
You cannot deem me stranger to your Nation:  
When as I came I not in cradle rested,  
But erstloof was in Princely purple vested.

6.

To Heaven now my father is translated,  
Mongit gods residing as we are resolved:  
And that on me the Rule of right is stated,  
All humane care and worldly things devolved:  
I hope you will not like me as a Dative,  
But truly love me as your Emp'rour Native.

7.

What great effects this true love may produce  
Will be apparent by your good success;  
You will not give these barbarous people truce,  
Till you have bravely conquer'd more and less:  
To th' Ocean you this Empire shall extend,  
And win Immortall glory at the end.

8.

You'l crowne the mem'ry of our common father,  
Who as we ought believe beares what we say;  
Most happy then are we our selves the rather,  
That he our words and deeds be holds this day:  
The noble Acts you did before this season,  
Were guided by his prudent care and reason.

C

Wh\*

# Herodians Imperial History.

9.

What under me, now Prince you doe atchieve,  
Peculiar Trophie will be to your name;  
If you proceed, time none I have to grieve,  
Wee purchase shall such everlasting fame,  
As will innoble this my tender age,  
And crown your valour with a royall badge.

10.

If at the first we these Barbarians curb,  
They will not then despise our infant Raigne,  
Nor dare they once our Royall will disturbe,  
Both you and I shall eased be of paine:  
For when they see their owne harms cost them deare,  
They afterwards of us will stand in feare.

11.

Having thus said, the souldiers he assur'd  
With money, then to Palace did returne;  
A short time he his fathers friends endur'd,  
Gainst their directions was not seen to spurne:  
They gave him counsell tending unto wealth,  
Permitting recreation for his health.

12.

But diuerse of his Court within a while  
Themselves into his fauour sought to wind,  
And by ill meanes this hopeful Prince beguile,  
With pleasures vaine they did corrupt his mind,  
Placing their whole delight on belly cheare  
And brutish \* lusts as effsoone will appeare.

\* In ventre &  
ventre.

13.

The sweet delinies that was us'd in Rome,  
They doe recount what bravery was there;  
How plenty great from all parts there did come,  
And with him thither sat to make repaire,  
How \* Ifter banks were fruitlesse, barren, cold,  
And subject to much raine they then unfold.

\* The greatest  
River next to  
Nilus.

Your

14.

Your grace doth drinke the waters muddy frozen,  
While your inferiours warme baths doe lo joy;  
Sweet air of *Italy* by them is chosen  
When you live here with ease and great annoy:  
With sweet affectives and such pleasures nam'd  
These parasites this young Prince had inflam'd.

15.

He therefore then his Councell cal'd together,  
And told them he had great desire to see  
His native place, now having wind and weather,  
To speak the reason then full loath was he:  
But yet, as if it had not been for folace,  
He said he fear'd the rich Imperiall Palace

16.

Might seized be into some great Lords hands,  
And this conceit the rather did him feare,  
Because use might be made of trained bands,  
Which could not be if once he came so neare:  
This made his Councillors for feare to shake,  
And grave *Pompeianus* was first that spake.

17.

He eldest was and married had his sister,  
No man so fit of all the Princes kin  
That was with him upon the banks of *Ister*  
To shew their case, and thus he did begin:  
No marvaile if my deare and Sovereigne Lord  
Dislike this place which is to be abhorr'd;

*Pompeianus*  
speech.

18.

So all of us posselt with equall care;  
Have like desire to see our native home:  
But yet our businesse bids us to beware  
Wee from this barbr'ous people doe not Roame,  
Till that we finish'd have this dreadfull war  
From them (my Liege) we ought not be so far.

C 2

This

19.

This doth import that we should yet reframe,  
 Domestick good may after be enjoy'd;  
 Time lost will not so soone be had againe,  
 At Rome I fear we shall with ease be clog'd,  
 Then good my Lord thinke where your Grace resides.  
 Is Rome, with all her Ornaments besiden.

\*Ubi Imperator  
 ibi Roma.

20.

But if abruptly we breake off this warr,  
 Wee honour lose and danger doe incurr,  
 Let our advise be to your grace a barr,  
 Beseeching you that here you will demurr,  
 For if from these wee doe remove so farr,  
 And be so hot to run upon the spurr,  
 Wee animate these thieves and rebels arch,  
 To think that we for feare doethus dismarch.

21.

Now if your majesty doe still proceed,  
 Extending conquest in this Northern part,  
 Untill the Empire reach in word and deed  
 The Ocean sea to make these Rebels smart,  
 What Triumph then will fall unto your meed,  
 The City greets you with a glad some heart,  
 When you with chain'd captiv'd Kings notorious  
 And barb'rous Princes shall returne victorious.

\* The captives  
 went before  
 the Trium-  
 phant Chariot

22.

Thus ancient Roman Heroes did attaine  
 And purchase to themselves such high renown,  
 To feare domestick broyles it is in vaine,  
 Prime Senators are here with you in gown,  
 And th' Armies force to undertake the paine,  
 With treasure eke of the Imperiall Crown:  
 Your fathers noble acts above the rest  
 Confirmed hath to you Each loyall breast.

23.

From person grave this was dissuasion strong,  
It did for present time abate the edge;  
None could doe more the Senators among,  
So well he plac'd the words he did alledge:  
The Prince not having wherewith to reply,  
Dismiss the Lords as if he would comply.

24.

But soone anon his fawning Courtiers came,  
Perswading him no longer now to stay;  
With sly deceit they play their after-game,  
Still pressing him with them to ride away:  
No further then with counsell he advis'd,  
His wits were craz'd and senses quite disguis'd.

25.

Then instant he sent letters unto Rome,  
And call'd for such as were with him to goe;  
Yet order gave that Armed Troops should come  
To guard the banks of *Ister* gainst the foe:  
Which charge when as the souldiers understood,  
Much of the Barbarous people they subdu'd.

26.

And many other with rewards they wonn,  
So well this greedy people loved cash;  
Therefore the feare was so much sooner done,  
What cared they to come within the lash,  
So they their wonted roving course may run,  
To live by forage, spoyle, and such like trash:  
This is the cause that makes them not to feare  
To sell their truce be market cheap or deare.

27.

Of this the Princes sycophants were sure,  
And having there of coyne a mighty masse,  
That all things might be left the more secure,  
They brought their naughty matter so to passe;  
That whatsoe're this people did demand,  
Was sent to them by *Commodus* command.



28.

As soone as in the Army was proclaim'd  
 That all of them might to their home retire,  
 To quit the barbarous enemies they siid,  
 The City sweets to tast was their desire:  
 Nor to this motion were they slack or surly,  
 For in the camp they hast with hurly burly.

29.

And when these newes were spread and known in *Rome*,  
 The people all were ravished with joy,  
 To heare young *Commodus* to them would come,  
 Their hearts were glad and free from all annoy,  
 No marvell; for this hope they had the rather,  
 That he was son unto so good a father.

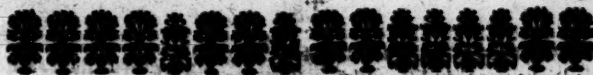
30.

His present journey then he tooke with speed,  
 And welcome was in every town and place;  
 More hast he made the lesse he tooke good heed,  
 He posting rid as he would run a race:  
 Yet when the people understood the cause,  
 They entertain'd him with their full applause.

31.

But when he drew neer to the City *Rome*,  
 There went to meet him all the *Roman* Peers,  
 And Commons eke to bid him welcome home:  
 For very joy the elder sort shed teares;  
 Some flowers bad, and Lawrells other some,  
 To gratulate this Royall Prince of theirs:  
 They love him deare for father that was dead,  
 And that he was amongst them born and bred.

CANT.



CANTO III.

The ARGUMENT.

*Young Commod's Birth and person wee describe,  
He gladly is received into Rome;  
The false Perennus of a naughty Tribe,  
And Lucill also had a rightfull doome:  
What feast they doe for Iupiter provide,  
And how the Roman Priests themselves doe guide.*

**H**OW wild is youth when once it gets the head,  
A lively pattern here we may behold;  
You see this Prince, now that his father's dead,  
To take his swing is more then wisely bold;  
Forfaking counsell of the grave and hoary,  
As will appeare when you observe the story.

Full three descents he nobly was descended,  
Extracted from the Right Imperiall Line;  
His birth by fathers side is well commended,  
By mothers eke who named was *Faustina*;  
From *Adrian*, *Trajan*, And good *Anthon*,  
This gallant Prince deriv'd his pedigree.

Nor was he only Noble for descent,  
Or so remarked for this youthfull prime,  
But God withall such lovely feature lent,  
With constitution good and looks sublime;  
Majestick too, with sparkling eyes and faire,  
All which was graced with yellow curled hair.

His descrip-  
tion.

For

4.

For whensoever he walked in the Sun,  
His locks would glister like to flaming fire,  
And many did suppose the same was done  
With powdred Gold, or else with Golden wire:  
Some said it was Divinitic on earth,  
His head this glitt'ring lustre had from's birth.

THE 5. CHAP.

Besides, his cheeks began with silken down  
To blossom forth like Roses in the spring;  
The Romans did this brave young Emprour crown  
With all the hearty love that they could bring:  
Acclaiming from their steeples and their towers,  
Strowing his way with garlands & with flowers.

6.

\* Built on  
Mount Pala-  
tine.

Thus having made his entry in the City,  
He first went to the Temple\* of great Iove:  
His heart was yet inclining unto pity,  
He had respect unto the gods above:  
Prætorian Bands that were both stout and witty,  
And Senate eke he thanked for their love:  
Then after all this rare delight and solace  
Himselfe repos'd in the Imperiall Palace

7.

Some few years after he gave due regard  
To fathers friends in matters most of weight;  
But yet ere long they from the same were barr'd,  
*Perennius* an Italian did them sleight;  
He made him Captaine of Prætorian Bands,  
All matters then went through *Perennius* hands.

8.

This Emprour young in pleasures he did prompt,  
And suff' red him most sensually to reign;  
In all affaires he tooke the chiefe account,  
As being for the Prince too mickle paine:  
He scraped still and never was content,  
But studied more his *Locums* to augment.

By

9.

By Calumny he daily did invent  
Old *Marcus* friends to bring into dispute;  
With witnesse false he also did indent,  
By wrong surmise the Prince was often mutes:  
All this was done to further his intent,  
That he the sooner might obtain his sute;  
For by their deaths the goods to him did fall,  
Thus secretly he did this Prince inthrall.

10.

The thought of Father and of Counsell grave  
Did for a season temper his respect;  
But fortune hard, did so his wits deprave,  
That suddenly he did as all neglect:  
The cause <sup>\*</sup> made this young Prince so to feare us,  
His <sup>\*</sup> sister first did wed with *Lucius Vornus*.

<sup>\*</sup> Lucilla

11.

Whom *Marcus* tooke in government colleague,  
And to oblige in strongest bond of love,  
His daughter gave, to make the firmer League;  
Both worth and prudence did this kindnesse move:  
And after this her husband was deceased,  
Her state and dignity was not decreased.

12.

For to the grave *Pompania* by her fire,  
She was againe bestow'd to her content;  
They also leave from *Commodus* require,  
Who did confirm this match with full consent;  
Permitting her to use her State and Honour,  
Who like an Empresse had attendance on her.

13.

On Theatre her chaire of State erected,  
And also fire according to the fashion,  
Was borne before to make her more respected  
As well at home as of each other Nation;  
But *Commodus*, when married had <sup>\*</sup> *Crispine*,  
She taking place <sup>\*</sup> *Lucilla* did repine.

<sup>\*</sup> The Em-  
peresse.  
<sup>\*</sup> His Sister

This

D

14.

This honour new shee thought did her disgrace,  
 Yet durst not tell her purposed designe,  
 To seize the Empire; but forbore a space,  
 This deed shall not be knowne to husband mine:  
 She knew right well her Lord the Prince did love,  
 Which was the cause she never did him move.

15.

*Quadratus* was the man must be imploy'd,  
 With him of lightnesse she was much suspected;  
 She told him how her pomp was now destroy'd,  
 And wisht her friend to see the same corrected:  
 So he perswaded by this wicked elfe,  
 Had neer undone the Senate and himselfe.

16.

The manner thus 'mongst others that conspire,  
*Quintianus* a desperate youth and bold,  
 He did inveigle unto his desire,  
 Presuming that he would be nothing cold  
 To kill the Prince with dagger or with knife,  
 For which he promis'd large to save his life.

17.

Soone after this he stood in corner blind,  
 As to the Amphythet' he came *Cammede*;  
 And when he pass'd according to his mind,  
 He gave a stab proclaiming it aloud,  
 How that the senate this to him had sent,  
 And once againe to stab was his intent.

18.

But instant he was seized by the guard,  
 And guerdon had (though seeming to relent)  
 As 'twas to him a most condigne reward  
 That on such wicked message would be sent:  
 Thus hap'ly was the Emp'rours safety wrought,  
 By his discovery that so ill was taught.

This.



19.

This plotting was the prime and chiefest ground  
Which brought so many Nobles to their fall;  
It in his mind did print so deep a wound,  
For enemies he now suspected all.  
Nor could forget the speech the youth did make,  
When he assayed his life away to take.

20.

*Perennus* laying hold on this occasion,  
Did counsell give the Gallants out to root;  
And Nobles eke there must be no evasion,  
He their estates confiscate did to boot;  
Great wealth he got by this his lewd persuasion,  
Himself as judge not sitting at the foot:  
All that conspired (with *Commodus* owne sister  
Though lightly, but suspected) had a glister.

21.

Then such as *Commodus* had cause to feare,  
*Perennus* with his skil did thus remove;  
Though most of them did hold the Emprour dear,  
And some affected with Paternal love;  
Now he had got him in his owne tuition,  
He need preferre (he thinks) no more petition.

22.

The Empire he accounteth as his owne,  
His sonns \* must be preferr'd at any rate;  
Pratorian Bands he will not let alone,  
But largesse gives to fortifie his state;  
And when the Prince had fetcht his latest grain,  
A straw they care not for the peoples hate:  
But how this treason strangely was detected,  
And Prince yet safe is now to you directed.

\* To command  
*Illyria*, after  
called *Dalma-*  
*tia*, now *Sla-*  
*vonia*.

23.

A sacred Pageant \* doe the Romans use,  
To grace great *Jupiter* Capitoline;  
To celebrate the people not refuse,  
But doe repaire and think it very fine:  
The Emprours custome to be present there,  
As chiefe with Priests that doe attend each yeare

\* Or Agon;

D 3

Anon

24.

Anon the Prince on lofty Throne is set  
To view the actors ( for their feats renown'd )  
The Theatre full, spectators all are met,  
The Cornets play and Trumpets shrill doe sound;  
Each one is decent, plac'd in his degree,  
Attending for to heare and eke to see.

25.

Before that ought was either said or acted,  
Halfe naked one starts out amidst the Stage;  
You might have thought how it was one distracted,  
But that his gesture shew'd him to be sage:  
With staff in hand and scrip upon his shoulder,  
In this attire no doubt he was the bolder.

26.

Then standing still he beckned with his hand,  
And silence crav'd that *Commodus* might heare;  
No time quoth he upon these shewes to stand:  
You rather ought the present danger feare:  
*Perennis* sword is hanging o're your head,  
Which soon you must avoid or else be dead.

27.

This man hath raised up a mighty Band  
Of men, with mony, to possesse your roome;  
He purposes for to invade your Land,  
*Ilyrian* Army likewise hither come:  
This ploted is by him and by his sonn,  
Which instantly prevent or be undone.

28.

Thus said the fellow, whether thereto mov'd  
To get a name, or by instinct divine;  
He was obscure, and therefore him behov'd  
To win reward that he might sup and dine.  
Howe're it made Prince *Commodus* afraid,  
It matters not what others thought or said.

But

29.

But woe to him that in this shape he turn'd,  
*Perennus* bids he shall be apprehended,  
 And as seditious frantick to be burn'd,  
 Though what he said, perhaps could not be mended:  
 Thus suffered he for being over-bold,  
 Untimely truth is better kept then told.

30.

Howbeit some that lov'd the Emp'rours weale,  
 And to *Perennus* bore deserved spleen,  
 Did well and wisely in this matter deale,  
 As knowing how corrupt the man had been,  
 And how in th' Prince his favour he did scale  
 By practise vile, as ever yet was seen:  
 They so devise, the Prince did soone abhorr it,  
*Perennus* and his children smarted for it.

31.

To make the matter full, there \* souldiers came  
 Unknown unto *Perennus* or his sonne,  
 Brought stamped coyne with Image and their Name,  
 That *Commodus* might see what they had done;  
*Perennus* little thought of so much blame,  
 Off went his head as fast as it might run:  
 By souldiers thus the Traytors were discarded,  
 Who for their service richly were rewarded.

\* British souldiers some say.

32.

Then for *Ilyria* posts went to his sonne,  
 Delivering Letters in the Emp'rours name;  
 Such speed they make he knew not what was done,  
 Full little dreaming of his Fathers shame;  
 The Posts informe him why they came so fast,  
 Both Prince and Father will him to make hast.

D 3

To

33.

To come to *Rome* was for his high promotion;  
 The reason why they brought not fathers letter,  
 Enough he thought the Princes Royall motion,  
 And then his owne exceeding much the better;  
 [Vnknown to him his father had disaster,  
 He thinks all true and rides to *Rome* the faster.

34.

What though the plot and first designe had mist,  
 His fathers might shall make up all at *Rome*;  
 But this was a conceipt of had I wist.  
 For to the Prince he is no sooner come,  
 But by his mandate he is forthwith slain,  
 This was the life and end of traytors twaine.

35.

Then two *Pratorian* prefects made the Prince,  
 To delegate to one it was not best;  
 For so the one the other would convince,  
 If he to much did feather his owne nest:  
 But while he did about this businesse hammer,  
 Another Treason broke out in this manner.

C. 11.



# CANTO III

## The ARGUMENT.

*Maternus rebels, his plot detected;  
The mother of the gods, her holy day  
And story with river strange infested,  
To make men geld their genitors away:  
A plague and famine great is now at Rome  
Cleander next into the Scamna doth come.*

I.

**O** Fond ambition I how didst thou transport  
The mind of those wee late had on our stage!  
Unhappy they that left so bad report  
To such as liv'd in their ensuing age:  
I further might enlarge, but yet this Text  
Wee set aside to see what followes next.

2.

A souldier one that named was *Maternus*,  
A Rebell stout, and insolent bravado;  
He is the next man now that doth concern us,  
To him resorted many a renegado:  
Unto his motion they themselves do yeeld,  
Committing spoyle in City Towne and Field.

3.

This booty got doth numbers more invite,  
Who promis'd are to share and have reward;  
From far and neare they come both day and night,  
That now he seemes to have a mighty guard:  
Not like a pack of theeves but armed men,  
Who Cities take and break ope every den.

They



4.  
They pris'ners doe let loose and malefactors,  
Who soldiers turn for pillage and for prey;  
They range abroad and are become great Actors,  
To *Gaul* and *Spain* they take their ready way:  
Thus sack and burn doth he and his adherents,  
While *Commodus* doth send to his Vicegerents.

5.  
With cowardise he chargeth them as base,  
Commanding them an Army straight to levy  
These free booters from thence away to chase;  
Which when they heard they thought it would be heavy  
For them to stay upon this hollow ground,  
So sink away by rotten bogs unfound.

6.  
In *Italy* they yet make rendezvous,  
*Maternus* there began to looke full big,  
In sterner manner then he wont did use,  
Devising with his mates to find a jigg,  
That he thereby might make himselfe a King,  
Urging successe his former acts did bring.

7.  
So gallant he that now he would attempt  
To hazard life and all upon a chance,  
Then live in vile dishonour and contempt;  
He was resolv'd to leade them such a dance  
As might become a noble heart and bold,  
This tale to all the rest he quicntly told.

8.  
But well he knew he had not force at hand  
With *Commodus* to fight it out in battell;  
He therefore meant to try *Pratorian* Band,  
To see if he could catch them with a rattle;  
Then to discern how they approv'd or not,  
Will now appeare when you perceive his plot.

9.

The Romans make a Feast at every Spring  
In honour to the mother of the gods;  
Their precious stuff the Citizens doe bring,  
With *Parcimony* they are all at odds;  
The Prince himselfe at this time doth not scorn  
With Jewels choice her Image to adorne.]

10.

Then liberty to revell and to maske,  
All men at pleasure may themselves disguise;  
That now it will not be an easie taske  
To know the dolt from rich men or from wise:  
*Maternus* thought this time fit for his Treason;  
And how to Act he shew'd his fellowes reason.

11.

Which was himselfe and complices to arme,  
At all points like unto the Princes guard,  
And so the halberts passe not doubting harme,  
Or care by whom they shall be seen or heard:  
For being held as part of th' Emprours traine,  
They might him kill and so returne againe.

12.

The City he approach'd with this intent,  
And tooke along with him a Troop select,  
Though some were villanes, other some relent,  
And to the Emp'rour doe this Thief detect;  
Then he with fellows had deserved hire,  
Some hang'd by th' neck, *Maternus* burnt with fire.

13.

The Prince then having sacrific'd with thanks,  
And to the goddesse made his supplication,  
Her holiday was kept with all the pranks  
That doe belong to such a fond devotion;  
For he himselfe did foot it on his shanks,  
Which made the people make another motion:  
Though some perhaps doe reckon this a toy,  
A second day they kept for him with Joy.

E

Why,

14.

Why then at *Rome* this goddess did esteem  
 And worship both apparent and in creeks,  
 Their owne records must reſuſe I deem,  
 Because it is not known amongst the *Greeks*:  
 But how to them this matter did befall,  
 Attentive be then, I begin my tale.

15.

\* Their chiefe goddessc. They say by (*Jove*) her \*Image was let fall,  
 Who made it, or of what, it is unknowne:  
 No humane worke they creed it is at all,  
 But that it was from heaven sent or thrown  
 To *Pessinus*, which is a *Phrygian* Field,  
 Though such a fall hath heard of been but feeld.

16.

Some others at a battle make report,  
 Which by the *Phrygian* *Hus* there was fought;  
 For likely his it might be in such sort,  
 For *Lydian* *Tamalus* he set at naught:  
 The quarrell thus about a way they plead,  
 Or for the stealing of young *Ganimed*.

17.

But when they had long fought on even ſcore,  
 And how on both ſides many men were ſlain,  
 That name it did assume, and not before  
 This slaughter, which was made upon the plaine;  
 And some doe tell a tale of *Ganimed*,  
 How he poore youth on this place was found dead.

18.

For so they say that when his brother strove  
 To rescue him from lovers fond embrace,  
 In pieces he was pul'd with Ardent love  
 And so left dead upon this very place.  
 To ſalve this matter some ſay mighty *Jove*  
 From both did take him by indulgent grace;  
 And hereupon he Honour had divine,  
 Bearing the Cup when *Jove* carouſeth Wine.

The

19.

The *Phrygian* orgies in this *Pessinus*  
Of old were celebrate with lasting Fame,  
And on the banks of the River *Gilias*,  
Whence gelded priests of goddesse had their name;  
Who drinks thereof shall goe a gelded \* elfe,  
Come there who list, I mean to save my selfe.

\* *Plin. l. 9. c. 32.*

20.

Now when the Roman state began to flourish,  
If goddesse *Pessinus* they could obtain,  
*Apollo* told their Empire she would cherish  
To overtop the rest with might and main;  
To *Pgygia* then did they dispatch Embassage,  
Who gently entertained the Roman message.

21.

Being extracted from *Aeneas* line,  
There were of kin by right Descent of blood;  
The Image then they sent to them in line,  
To blame were they if it had been withstood:  
To *Tiber's* mouth at length this Ship did come,  
Which was the only part then long'd to *Rome*.

22.

All suddenly the vessell stuck so fast,  
As if with-held by some supernall power,  
In vaine they hal'd and pul'd, till at the last  
A Vessall Virgin came in lucky hour,  
Who was accus'd for losing her virginity,  
Wherefore she fervent prai'd to the divinity.

23.

That if she were not guilty of the crime,  
The gods would please to take some pity on her,  
And send her strength at this most needfull time,  
To cleare the vessell for to save her Honour:  
Then she besought the people not to grudge  
If goddesse *Pessinania* were her Judg.

E 2

Whom

24.

Whom they admit, her girdle then untide,  
 The people heard what Orisons she us'd,  
 The goddesse would command the Ship to slide,  
 If she were free of that she was accus'd,  
 When to the Ship her girdle she had bound,  
 She pul'd it to the shore both safe and sound.

25.

The Romans now the goddesse much admire,  
 With whom you are acquainted in this story,  
 And eke the Virgin chait as they desire,  
 Now she is cleare I hope you are not forry:  
 This tale is long whereof I have no more,  
 Some it may please that heard it not before.

26.

And now to *Commodus* we make repa're,  
 Who had good cause to double his Life-guard;  
 For since *Masernus* Treason did him scare,  
 He them commanded to keep stricker ward,  
 To Suburb-house he went or Country farme,  
 Leaving the Court for feare of further harme.

27.

Both *Rome* and *Italy* were much infested  
 With pestilence, which did them sore torment,  
 And strangers there that for their Traffick rested  
 Great cause they had their fortunes to lament:  
 For men and beasts dectoid by some ill influence,  
 Did make the City smart through so much confluence.

28.

The Prince by his Physitians was perswaded,  
 That to *Laurencium* he should make repaire;  
 For so the plague might better be evaded,  
 There \* *Laurell* was with coole and temperate aire:  
 A Seate that stands in Register for Fame,  
 Of *Laurell* did *Laurencium* take the name.

\* Anecdote  
 against the  
 plague.

There



29.

There fragrant tents and pleasant shade of Baies,  
Which would avails against the fierce infection,  
The Citizens were also shew'd some waies,  
How to prepare a pravalent confection;  
Their cares wherewith and nostrils to anoint,  
Such Odours sweet the Doctors did appoint.

30.

They reason thus if senses prapossesse,  
No fulsome aire so soon therein can enter;  
Nor shall they be inforc'd to such distresse,  
But they abroad to exercise may venter:  
Yet did this plague outrageous make them die,  
That men and beasts on heapes were seen to lye.

31.

A grievous dearth was also in the City,  
Procur'd by one that once was sold a slave,  
Cleander Phrygian, greater was the pity,  
That he had meanes to make himself so brave;  
By cunning sleight so well he sung his ditty.  
He had from Prince what he could wish or crave:  
From Page to more degrees so well he fard,  
At length he made him Captaine of his guard.

32.

Rank of successe he was so puffed with pride,  
For Empire now he meant to turn and wind;  
Great masse of treasure and of Corne, beside  
Monopolies he got of every kind,  
When Citizens the greatelt want did 'bide,  
He sought to win them all unto his mind:  
With Donatives he would the souldiers gaine,  
And commons should have plenty for their paine.

33.

A \*Gimnasse also and a statley Bath  
He did erect the people for to catch;  
But yet such grudge to him the vulgar hath,  
That they his craft and proud designe will watch:  
Their liberties by him was brought in thrall  
They therefore now detest him great and small.

An Activty  
Court

E 3

In

34.

In publike Theater first they him disgrace,  
Yet are not so content to vent their spleen,  
But run with open mouth unto the place,  
Whereas they thought their Prince was to bee seen,  
And Justice they doe cry for more and more,  
Untill the Subburbs all were in uproar.

35.

This while to wantonneffe the Prince was bent,  
In ~~innes~~ private Roomes did not the tumult mind,  
For that *Cleander* look'd how to prevent;  
Who having plac'd the horsemen so behind,  
They overthrew and wounded whom they likt,  
The City foot unarm'd could not resist.

36.

Whereon they to the City fled amaine,  
Followed by Cornets of *Cleanders* horse,  
Great numbers of the common people slaine,  
And trampled under foot without remore;  
The *Lanciers* pursued to the City gate,  
Killing outright, such was the woefull state.

37.

The Citizens at home soone understood  
The slaughter made of neighbour was and friends,  
From off house topps they throw both stones and mudd,  
Tyles and firebrands they from above doe send;  
The commons now that better understand,  
Dart from aloft, not fighting hand to hand.

38.

Their doores were shut, themselves were out of Reach,  
They killed some and many put to flight;  
Others they wound and better manners teach,  
Their heads rung noon though it was almost night;  
Some were thrown down, some from their horses leaps,  
And tumbled on the stones that lay on heaps.

The

39.

The Bands of Foot that in the City selle,  
Did likewise come the Citizens to aid;  
They flock together, all make up a masse,  
Which from the Troopers terribly afraid;  
Yet none durst to the Emp'rour make addresse,  
To tell him what was either done or said,  
Till that *Padilla Commodus* his sister  
Tooke heart of grace, and told him of this stirr.

40.

To her they could not well deny accesse,  
With haire dishevel'd and mourning weeds shee run,  
And plainly told how they were in distresse,  
Without some present help they were undone:  
This Lady sister, faire and seemely maid,  
Fell at his feet, and thus to him she said;

41.

Your Majesty with pleasures here is fill'd,  
You little know our danger or your own;  
Wee your flesh and blood like are to be kill'd  
Part of your force and Cities overthrow;  
Such outrage as *Barbarians* would not offer,  
Your servants acted have, and more doe profer.

*Padilla's*  
speech.

42.

He whom to greatest Honour you prefer'd,  
Is now become your deep and deadly foe;  
*Cleander* commons hath and souldiers stir'd,  
They both of them against you now doe goe:  
He hated is of one, and lov'd of th' other,  
Both are up in Armes killing one another.

43.

Your Royall City now with blood is fill'd,  
And wee shall smart for this unruly geere,  
Unlesse you cause this sycophant to be kill'd,  
Nor wee or you can be in safety here:  
He author is of this most wicked part,  
If not cut off your Majesty will smart.

Thus

44.

Thus having said, her haire and garment rent,  
 Her Noble speech had put the rest in heart;  
 The Prince afraid and sory to be shent,  
 That he should be the cause of so much smart,  
 Without delay he for *Cleander* sent,  
 And taught him how to play so lewd a part,  
 Him he arrests, and doom'd him to be dead,  
 So did this wicked traytor lose his head.

45.

Which fastned was and sent upon a Speare,  
 That all the commons and the rest might see:  
 Imagine well you may how glad they were,  
 More welcom unto them could norbing bee:  
 Then that which caused had this bloody broyle  
 Was sent to cease their cruell fight and toyle.

46.

The souldiers then perceiving he was slain,  
 Whose quarrell they so dreadfully had fought,  
 The Emp'rours favour they beseech againe,  
 Their lesion new they once more would be taught,  
 He was abused they discerned plaine,  
 Though this their knowledge is full dearly bought:

Proverb,

Yet better late then never is repentance,  
 Now they and commons both doe like the sentence.

47.

They also their revenge extended further,  
 Two sonns was all his children left behind,  
 Both them and his adherents they doe murder,  
 Left not a man that had to him inclin'd;  
 In this garboyle they must with him part stakes,  
 Their bodies dragg'd and thrown into a Jakes.

48.

Loe how ambition here hath plaid its part,  
 A man putt up beares high and lofty sayle,  
 With all his flies and Fautors in that art,  
 Now fortune sail'd and then anon did faile,  
 Shee careth for *Cleander* not a f——)  
 But him despis'd and turn'd her sickle taile,  
 Whom shee from low degree of late preferr'd,  
 Againde debas'd and all their matter marr'd.

CANT.

CANTO V.

The ARGUMENT.

*Both Credulous and cruel is the Prince,  
Rome fired is and Prodiges appeare,  
Undecent sports of folly him convince,  
A goddesse strange and gifts of the new year,  
Faure Marcia his Soleiled Concubine  
With others doe conspire his death in fine.*

1.

**H**OW practise some to gain their wicked ends,  
When once the Reines into their hands are put;  
They post too fast, outrunning all their friends,  
So Tyrant-like they play the greedy gut:  
This was the case of covetous *Cleander*,  
When he so far from Loyaltie did wander.

2.

Now *Commodus* is needlessly afraid  
Lest Commons rude new matters should attempt,  
But counsell wise perswaded him and said,  
His presence straight would quash the late contempt;  
To City then he went to cleare the cause,  
And there received was with great applaus.

3.

Thus having past such sharp and threatening pikes;  
A while he did in Palace him repose;  
Yet friend and foe etidone the kill and strikes,  
So jealous was of ev'ry Brute that rose,  
He credit gave to ev'ry Accusation,  
Though nere so false, such was the Allegation.

F

To



# Herodians Imperial Hypocrite

To sensual pleasures he was whole enslav'd,  
That took up all his time both day and night;  
Himself not like a Prince he now behav'd,  
All Noble acts he did abandon quite;  
All persons good he basish'd as infidious,  
And kept Buffoones debauched and perfidious.

## THE ARGUMENT

He Coaches ran and skirmish'd with wild beasts,  
More then became the Splendor of a King,  
In rioting and all voluptuous Feasts;  
With fawning Parasites his Court did Ring a  
Strange fight a man'd the City full of feare,  
Stars did at noon as in the night appeare.

6.

With blazing Comets of a wondrous length;  
All Creatures much contrary to their kind;  
To bring forth monsters of unusual strength,  
Yet that which most affects the peoples mind,  
And made them fear their mischiefe would come after,  
Was this ensuing hideous disaster.

7.

That stately Temple dedicate to Peace  
In Rome, the like was no where to be found;  
Storme there was none, and tempests all did cease,  
Quite burned was unto the very ground;  
Whether by fire above or fire below,  
Or little shake of earth no man did know.

This sumptuous Temple was both Rich and Strong,  
With *Donaries* most curiously Adorn'd,  
Of Silver bright and Massie Gold among;  
No marvaile therefore if the wealthy mourn'd,  
For Treasure better than did to them belong.  
And herein kept, was much of spoils on hand;  
This fatall night, like had one been before,  
All onish'd, and made the Rich men poore.

of

Here.

9.

Here was both private and a publick losse,  
Which sad event all ruthfully Deplore,  
Yet when this Stately Fabrick burned was,  
The flaming fire encreased more and more;  
To buildings Chiefe it made a further Rape,  
The goodly Fane of *Jove* did not scape.

10.

*Palladium* Image that was secret kept,  
By *Romans* held in sacred veneration,  
From *Troy* they say, was either brought or leapt,  
And therefore had the greater estimation;  
Not seen before, the Vestall Virgines carry,  
And through the Sacred Street to th, Palace herry.

11.

In City perish'd many Famous Pieces,  
The Fire could not be quench'd in sundry daies,  
Till that the raine from Heaven fell in fleeces,  
Then for Coelestiall Aid they all give praise:  
In this conceipt among them were no odds,  
The fire begun and ended by the gods.

12.

The Temple Burnt thus consecrate to *Jove*,  
Some said did shew their future ill success,  
And that calamities would still encrease,  
Some others hop'd it might be but a gnesse,  
Yet this Conjecture prov'd not only bare,  
As in Succeeding Bookes I will declare.

13.

These dire mishaps the Citizens surround,  
And fall so thick in one anothers neck;  
They sowrely looke, think *Commodus* the ground,  
His dismall deeds he careth not to check;  
The base Exploits which doe so publick found,  
Are Pregnant ever at his Call and Beck:  
His vaine excess is known to all Notorious,  
Nor doth he vaile it, but is more vain glorious.

F 2

Yes

14.

Yea to such drunken dotage he was grown,  
 He now refused flat his Fathers Name,  
 Abjuring *Marcus*, and what was his owne,  
 He *Herodes* is of *Jews* deriving Fame:  
 From *Roman* habit he so oft was in,  
 He thrust himself into a Lyons skin.

15.

Sometimes a massy Club in hand he bore,  
 Which made him in Extremity ridiculous,  
 Then Purple Amazonian Robe he wore,  
 With Pearl and Gold Embroyderyd perspicuous;  
 One was a garb for Females fit to weare,  
 The other more then Masculine Austere.

16.

He daily thus invented new Attire,  
 New Names he gave to Months within the year,  
 Leaving the old as Fancy did require,  
 Such as his Surname would more proper beare:  
 The most whereof to *Herodes* he referr'd,  
 As Heroe Chief who ought to be prefer'd.

17.

His Statues also he would have Erected  
 About the City, and at Senate Dore,  
 An Archer like, that he might be suspected,  
 Ready to shoot, to terrifie the More,  
 Which at his end, the Senate (to deface)  
 Brought Liberty \* Her Image there did place.

\* To a god-  
 esse amongst  
 the *Romans*.

18.

Now *Commodus* no longer could containe,  
 Himselfe would Act upon the publick Stage,  
 With his own hands fierce wild Beasts must be slain;  
 At sharp with sword-men he would like Engage;  
 The newes thus blaz'd, then people far and neare  
 Came flocking in as well to see as heare.

A

19.  
A marksman sure he was with Dart or Arrow,  
Numidian Darters could not well compare,  
Whatsoever he aim'd though as little a Sparrow,  
His Parthian Archers would not misse to rate,  
When time was come to shew this Action bold,  
The Theatre was full as it might hold.

20.  
A Tarras was set up for him to round,  
So far aloft he need no danger fear,  
Which made some think his valour was not sound,  
But rather skill in shooting did appeare:  
Of Bucks and Does and other horned Beast  
Great store he kill'd, but yet of Bulls the least.

21.  
None escap'd him, from Tarras he so Darted,  
Lyons, Panthers and Beasts of Noble sort,  
Such rare dexterity he there imparted,  
In mortall wounds they felt but little sport;  
He nimble hit the head or else the hart,  
When Beast was rous'd aim'd at no other part.

22.  
Noe sooner struck but dead they fell and stark  
Wild Beasts were brought from far of every kind;  
Such as in Pictures they before did mark,  
They all beheld except there were some blind:  
At once he slew and shew'd (not in the dark)  
Beasts strange that came from *Ethiops* and *Inde*,  
From East or West, from North or yet from South  
Was instant slaine, so well his leere he Couth.

23.  
Some Estrich of *Maresco* once he shot,  
Which spread their wings as Sailes to help their running;  
The Forked Arrow tooke the neck so pat,  
It marvell was to see such wondrous cunning;  
The blow so fierce that ere the Fowles were dead,  
They ran a certaine Space without a head.

\* See the L. of  
S. Albans, b. 1. f. 1.  
Cont. 4.

24.

A Panther like we brought into the List,  
 With speed and force a simple man did seize,  
 That all men thought of death he had not mist,  
 But him the Prince with lucky hand did seize.  
 He had no harm in any limb or joynt,  
 The Panthers teeth were struck with Javelin point.

25.

A hundred Lyons each to one a dart,  
 It was observ'd another time he slew;  
 Their bodies falling right so overthwart,  
 They easly might be numbred in the view.  
 In all of these miscarried not a Dart,  
 But struck the stanchy Beast in Head or Hart.

26.

These Active Feates became not well a Prince,  
 Yet cause they were of Valour dextrous proofs,  
 Were not unpleasing to the peoples sense;  
 But when that he in Theat' stood loose,  
 And plaid the naked fencing Gladiator,  
 This certes was a dire and dismall matter.

27.

To see a Noble Emp'rour so descended,  
 After so many Trophies had been won  
 By Famous Ancestors of Right commended,  
 Should thus become a base ignoble Son;  
 In stead of fighting with the rude Barbarian,  
 Had now disguis'd himself like to Maide-marian.

28.

How far unlike was this a Roman Prince,  
 To make such lordid and so vile digression;  
 What though he doe his opposites convince,  
 Wee all doe know it was a base profession;  
 To yeeld to him they are not void of sense  
 They know him King not master of defence.

He



29.

He rang'd so far and flaily plaid the fool;  
His Princely Palace He would now forsake  
To take his lodging in a fencing Schoole;  
Of *Heracles* Name no more account did make,  
But of a famous Swordsman late deceas'd  
Assum'd the Name, in that he best was pleas'd.

30.

Where *Romans* had an Image of the Sun;  
A high Colosse, and held in great esteem;  
The head struck off was by this Frantick don,  
To place one like his own he fir did deeme,  
But not subscrib'd with Sir Name, Father won;  
Such Glorious title nothing he did feare,  
But Victor of a thousand Gladiators  
Was best to him, though griefe to all Spectators.

31.

But now tis time to leave these foolish prayers,  
The City will no more endure this year;  
The Day at hand they give to *Jann* thanks,  
And yearly make his Holy Altar fairs;  
Their eldest god who Saturn enters in  
(Thrust out by *Jove*) when he came and complain'd.

32.

If *Latium* had so Name of his conceale,  
Wherefore it is a custome to this day,  
That first to *Saturn* they doe make Appeals;  
Then to old *Jann* they are wont to pray;  
His Image with two Heads they make appear  
Of new the first, but last of the old year.

33.

This Ancient Feast all *Italy* doe mind,  
The *Romans* to their friends give little toys,  
Both Gold and Silver of the neatest kind,  
To enterchange their Love and new come Joyes;  
With Gifts and Presents thus begins New Year,  
Then choicest Sillies and Purple Robes they wear.

This

34.

Now *Commodus* intendeth no such Salace,  
 Or Purple weare or Robe fit for a Prince;  
 He will not Issue forth from out his Palace,  
 But from a pakey common Schoole of Fence;  
 He must not now be Cumbred with such matters,  
 But Armed will be seen amongst Gladiators.

35.

When this to *Maxia* he had once imparted,  
 Who was his Deare and Choicest Concubine,  
 His Lewd Devise she purpos'd to have thwarted,  
 Before his feet she fell with werry cyne:  
 She Emptie like had what she could desire,  
 And Honours all excepting that of fire.

36.

She prayed his Majesty not to prophane  
 The *Roman* Empire with so vile a sport,  
 Nor let his Sacred person to be ta'en  
 Amongst Ruffins lewd in such a desperate sort;  
 But when she saw he was not of his keeping,  
 Nor could prevaile, shee thence departed weeping.

Proverb.

37.

He sends for *Latus* and *Eleuthis* both,  
 Generall and Chamberlaine he bids take care  
 His Helts to keepe, who were exceeding loth,  
 In fencio Schoole his lodging to prepare;  
 Next morrow he would Sacrifice for tooth  
 As custome was, for cost he will not spare,  
 And to the Romans shew himselfe in Arms,  
 He and his Fencers giving fire Alarms.

38.

These two most humbly prai'd him to desist,  
 And not commit such rude Unprincely Act;  
 Though they were grave he will doe what he list  
 And from his presence he in rage them parte  
 Then in his Chamber (to repose at noon  
 As was his wont) his plot contrived soon.

There

39.

There did he write down in a Table booke  
The Names of those he doom'd to death that night;  
*Electus, Laisus, Marcia* too must looke,  
With many more, to tast his Irefull spight:  
Old Senators his Fathers loyall friends  
Must now be brought unto their dismall ends,

40.

And this he did lest Censuring should mate  
And countereheck his black and dismall deeds;  
He meanes to give away their goods and state;  
To Souldiers and to Fencers straight he speeds,  
That one of them his person might defend,  
The other would delight his whimsey end.

41.

When this was done and Booke left on his Pallat,  
His Chamber doore he thought none durst to enter,  
A little Boy, as little wit in fallat,  
Could hardly speake, yet had the hap to enter;  
Such pretty Boyes the *Romans* use to have,  
Halfe naked drest, with Gold and Silver brave.

42.

This Boy did *Commodus* Extreemly Love,  
And very oft he lay with him in bed,  
Call'd *Philo Commodus*, as much as Dove  
Or Darling, he thus of his Name was sped;  
The Boy was full of play and went to clamber  
(As *Commodus* did bath) to his bed Chamber.

43.

While thus he Lav'd and revell'd with his Minions,  
This Book the child tooke up and went to play;  
By power Divine it was in some opinions  
That *Marcia* chanc'd to meet him by the way;  
Whom dearely she did Love, and late had mist him,  
Now tooke him in her arms all and to kiss him.

G

But

44

But lest he should with pretty Childish toying,  
 Blot out some matters that might be of waight,  
 Taking the Booke to free from his Annoying,  
*Commodus* writing face perceived straight;  
 And longing now as women oft doe use,  
 She needs must read, yet found but heavy newes,

45

First she, next *Larus* and *Electus* dies,  
 With such a number of the Noble Train,  
 Then sighing deep the thosaments and cries,  
*O Commodus* is all my Love in vaine?  
 Have I endur'd your flatterers and lies?  
 Is this the Guerdon I have for my paine?  
 You soon shall know this sober hand of mine  
 Shall quickly dash your drunken Lewd designe,

46

She forthwith then for Lord *Electus* sends,  
 Her bosom friend and Princes Chamberlaine;  
 The plot that was to make them all amends,  
 See here quoth she this night you must be slain:  
 He reads as though he somewhat was amaz'd  
 Of Egypt he, those are not easly dar'd.

47

In Choler he againe seal'd up the Booke,  
 To *Larus* sent it by a trusty friend;  
 He startled was and with a gally looke  
 To *Marcia* came, there businle did pretend,  
 As if he came to dresse the fencing Schoole,  
 Though *Commodus* his pulse they mean to Coole.

48

This was a Colour faire for them to treat,  
 Which soone begot a sound determination,  
 To save themselves *Marcia* may doe the feat  
 Without delay or more procrastination,  
 With poyson'd Cup which she could handle neat,  
 To shew him what was his predestination:  
 She must present, and neither faint or falter,  
 This was the meanes to keep them from the halter.

Fird

First enp he drank her custome was to offer,  
If that he Bath or else doe sup or dine,  
And he accepteth kindly of her proffer,  
The which she fills with *Aromatick* wine,  
And so presents with Spice as she had don't,  
This off he quaffs according to his wont.

He thirstly was with Bath and Chafing Bealt,  
But now his heavy head is in a slumber;  
They must not tell with what they did him fealt,  
But rather how much paines had bred his Cumber:  
These three Commands the rest to voyd the Court,  
Twas for his ease now having done his Sport.

For thus it was with him in drunken fits,  
When he had either Banqueted or Bath'd;  
No set time had to come within his wits,  
The severall sort of pleasure had him Seath'd:  
A while thus resting in this sorry plight,  
His Stomack ill, and head grew very light.

Extreamly unto Vomit then he fell  
With too much drink, or else with over feasting;  
If hap'ly so the Poyson might expell,  
With *Marcia* and the rest it was no jesting:  
Or else perhaps some Antidote had ta'ne,  
As Princes often use to shun their Bane.

How ere it was the Vomit did not cease,  
Conspirators began to be afread;  
If that his strength his poyson should release,  
And he come to himselfe, they were but dead:  
While thus about this matter they doe wrangle,  
They all agree *Narcissus* shall him strangle.



54.

*Narcissus* was a bold and desperate youth,  
 On their reward and promises he bears;  
 This was the end of *Commodus* in sooth,  
 Since Fathers death he reigned thirteen yeares:  
 Of high descent he noble was and Prime,  
 And was the goodliest person of his Time.

55.

For dextrous Darting second unto none;  
 But yet his Life ignoble was and foul;  
 Wherefore you heare they make but little mone,  
 Nor at his end the people dee condon:  
 Now of this Theame no longer we must dwell,  
 Repose a while, and I the rest will tell.

## *The End of the first Book*

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The



The Second Book.

CANTO VI.

The ARGUMENT.

*Describe wee Pertinax his high degree,  
With Lxtus speech and Emperour proclaim'd;  
The Senate in his choise doe all agree,  
Informers quell'd, good Government is Aimd,  
Train'd Bands rebell, Strangers extol the State,  
He murb'red is, though some repent too late.*

1.

**L**O here the fatall end of Prodigality:  
When men delight in Riot and excesse,  
More wholesome Doctrine is the mean frugality  
That checks the will when once it doth digresse:  
The greater he that doth himselfe iorbrall,  
The more his shame and greater is his fall.

2.

*Commodus slaine, Conspirators devise  
From Souldiers how the matter to conceale;  
They know 'tis time to put on some disguise,  
Two trusty friends must now the matter heale:  
The manner how while they in brieffe discusse,  
In Fardel Course his Corps they roundly trusse.*

3.

**A**nd carry forth in stead of household stuff,  
Which straight they doe convey away in post;  
The drunken guards say not so much as must,  
Regarding not what did concerne them most;  
With ready Couch before that any mist'um  
In dead of night they hurry to \* Arisum.

Proverb.

\* A City.

4.

*Electus, Latus,* The chiefe conspirers fall into debate  
*Marcia.* What way was best to save their Triple necks;  
 And 'cause they would avoyd the peoples hate,  
 They gave it out he died of Apoplex;  
 For he so oft did sleep with drunken pate,  
 They well might creed no Treason did him vex:  
 Thus Tyrant dead that peace might take effect,  
 They first conclude some grave man to elect.

5.

Consulting then they *Perimex* resolve  
 Most fit to undertake this weighty charge;  
 On him it was that *Marcus* did divolve  
 His chiefeest trust, and he who did enlarge  
 His conquest from the North unto the East,  
 And brought the Barb'rous People to his Host.

6.

Him *Commodus* both spared and rever'd,  
 For gravity and poverty his praise,  
 Was ground sufficient that he was not fear'd,  
 By wealth he never sought himself to raise:  
 In silent night when doores were shut and pent,  
 To him *Electus, Latus*, also went.

7.

To ope the doores they doe the Porter Call,  
 Who upon summons peeped soone without,  
 And seeing Souldiers with their Generall,  
 To Master ran amaz'd with feare and doubt;  
 Who him Commands they should not be rejected,  
 For now the mischief came he long expected.

8.

They say he Wav'd the Terror of the night,  
 And never changed hue or bed forsooke,  
 But with undaunted and a manly sprite,  
 A Courage bold and unappall'd Lookke,  
 Said here I am, you need to seeke no further,  
 I am the man that you are sent to murder.

This

This end indeed I look'd for every Tide,  
I marvaile *Commodus* hath been so slack,  
Of Fathers Friends I last of all Abide,  
And now Expect to follow on the Tracks;  
Perform your Errand that you come about,  
And me discharge of further feare and doubt.

10.

Then *Larus* thus, O Noble Sir Remove  
These Scruples which doe now your mind infest;  
Distrust not those that doe you dearly Love,  
We come with *Dionius* you to invest;  
The Tyrant dead, you Chosen are above  
All others, as the man Accepted best:  
*Eleus*, I, and *Marcia* doe signifie,  
That you above the rest we meane to dignifie.

11.

To whom againe good *Pertinax* reply'd,  
I am ( to be deluded in this sort )  
Too old ; forbeare and doe not thus deride,  
Or think that with a Coward you make sport;  
Then said *Eleus*, since you will not bide  
By that whereof we make so true report,  
Or deem, we gladly crave not your Command,  
Peruse this Booke, you know *Commodus* Hand.

12.

Good Friends they were to *Pertinax* of old,  
He plaine perceives the businesse how it goes;  
Thus much disclos'd againe he waxed bold,  
And yeilds himself to be at their dispose;  
Yet that the Souldiers might not be too Cold,  
They thought it best with them to make a close;  
And that from Power they might the matter take,  
*Larus* the Generall did it for his sake.

The

13.

The night grew on, it being almost spent,  
 Next day a feast in honour of New Yeare;  
 For trusty Messengers in hast they sent,  
*Commodus* death that they might make appeare;  
 How *Periux* now Prince would ease their bands,  
 When once this was divulg'd, they clap their hands.

14.

Excesse of Joy was spread all o're the City,  
 In every corner and in every street;  
 The people run and sing a pleasant Ditty,  
 Glad tydings tell to every one they meet;  
 The men renown'd for wealth and eke for worth,  
 That were in danger, now come peeping forth.

15.

Such men of Tyrants stand in greatest doubt,  
 To Temples then and Altars doe they Trudge;  
 Some Tyrant Cried, Fencer some other flout,  
 Nor any one heret was known to grudge:  
 Such as before durst not appeare in unity,  
 Dare now proclaime assured of impunity.

16.

But some for feare doe to the Army post,  
 Left Souldiers rude should not this Prince admit;  
 For under Tyrants they doe ravin most,  
 But this perhaps will not their spoile remit:  
 Yet to perswade they meane to undertake,  
 And *Lains* to the Army gently spake.

17.

*Lains* Speech. Our Prince while're is dead of Apoplex,  
 Doe what we could to keep him safe and quiet;  
 The drunken fits his braines did so much vex,  
 His night disports and gormandizing diet;  
 All which together did him so perplex,  
 Thy Death procur'd by vaine excesse and Riot;  
 In stead of whom, wee and the Army being,  
 A man approv'd most fit to be your King.

To



18.

To you which *Partrians* are his worth is known,  
He also was a guide unto the City,  
Not only Prince but Parent to each one,  
Fortune hath sent us as it were in pity,  
Whose Government if you doe now promote,  
Will glad your fellowes that are far remote.

19.

Such as the Marches of the Empire guard,  
His \* Noble Acts and how he was inclin'd,  
Remember yet, and how by him they far'd  
The Bar'rons people now will change their mind:  
Nor shall we need with money them to win,  
His only Name will awe and keep them in.

Sirnamed  
Britannus for  
Service there.

20.

When *Lasus* once this pithy Speech had made,  
The Souldiers 'gan to pause and to demurr;  
Yet were the Common People all so glad,  
They soone Appeas'd the Tumult and the sturr;  
'Twas Holiday, unarm'd the Souldiers came,  
So all agreed the Emprour to proclaime.

21.

They lesse in number were and intermixt,  
To give consent they therefore thought it best;  
No further difference then was them betwixt,  
Nor did they seem as if they had been prest;  
But all with *Laurels* made great Joy and solace,  
Conducting him to the Imperiall Palace.

22.

Now he good man himself was somewhat penfive,  
Not that he wanted courage or was faint;  
But yet he took this Act as reprehensive,  
And fear'd it might his former prudence taint;  
Then that it might in him be lesse offensive,  
He thought it best the Senate to acquaint;  
How after such a sudden change of Tyranny,  
The Crown was fall'n into a meaner Family.

23.

No Symbols yet of State he would admit  
With fire before, according to the mind;  
Till that he knew if they approved it,  
Or else he was obedient to their mind;  
Whom when they saw, they all with one accord,  
*Augustus* Call, and che their Sovereigne Lord.

24.

This Title was of Envy as he thought,  
And studies to avoid it all he might;  
Full well I know quoth he, this Honour ought  
To be prefer'd where there is greater Right;  
Amongst you many are of higher Race,  
To whom compar'd I count my selfe but base.

25.

My yeares have also worne me out of Date;  
Set me aside and chuse some Noble Peere;  
Looe there a man ordained is by Fate;  
How right it is that he be placed there;  
*Glabro* is he must call some of this name;  
Whom streight he handed to the Regall Throne.

26.

He was descended of a *New Race*,  
And twice he had the Consular Degree;  
Yet back againe he did resigne the Place,  
O *Pertinax* this Seate belongs to thee;  
When now no longer he could shun their fate,  
He made this Speech, concluding the dispute:

27.

*Pertinax*  
Speech.

My Lords, your Fervent Zeal and good Affection,  
In this debate most manifest Apperres;  
For that you please of me to make Election  
Before so many Great and Noble Peeres;  
Your Faith and worth that heretofore is so Large,  
Serves as a prop the Burden to discharge.

These

28.

These Favours yet so rare and so sublime;  
Intimidates even at the very sight;  
For Benefits so great at such a time  
Will not so easily be forsooke;  
Then how I may deserve what you confer;  
Is task too great, and doth me much deterr.

29.

The Lasting Glory of a Sovereigne Prince  
Consists not meere in a Chaire of State;  
But in those Royall Acts which may convince  
Such as Maligne, or doe repine thereat;  
The Evils past which they before endur'd,  
Must by his prudent Care be salv'd and Cur'd.

30.

Our grifes remaine, good turns are oft forgot;  
No sooner done but shortly fade and perish;  
Who is't that injuries remembers not;  
But him that seekes the Cure they seldome Cherish;  
Though he secure their Goods with all his might,  
No thanks say they, it is our proper Right.

31.

Best Change that happens for the Publike good,  
Is little worth to private men undone,  
And such as liv'd profuse when Tyrants stood,  
If once reduc'd a deperate Course they run,  
Accusing all of sparing Innovation,  
Though they reform with prudent Moderation.

32.

Yet since excesse of gifts as heretofore  
Can not be done, except we doe oppress  
And put the people in the like uproare,  
As erit they were when want did them distresse;  
Nor that our selves doe cover any more  
Then what is just, and all of them confesse;  
You will I hope with Counsell me assist,  
That each may have his owne, not what he list.

H a

This

33.

This Speech convey'd such Meeknesse and such Love,  
 With cheerfull hearts they doe him all revere;  
 Then brought him to the Temple of great *Jove*,  
 And other gods of whom they stand in feare:  
 When he had done the wonted Sacrifices,  
 He to the Palace went in Princely wife.

34.

When it was voic'd how Graciously he spoke,  
 And Commons had receiv'd what he had writ,  
 All men were pleas'd remembering well the yoke  
 That on their necks so heavy erst did sit;  
 The Souldiers Spoile he also sought to choake,  
 By making Edicts for the purpose fit.  
 Thus did he plant good order and Civility,  
 With Spirit mecke and Garb of affability.

35.

Although their Prince he govern'd as a Father,  
 Were he at home or else in judgment Sate,  
 Good *Marcus* steps did imitate the rather,  
 'Cause he reprov'd quarrell and debate.  
 All men affect this rule (without severity.)  
 Reduc'd to welcome Peace with great security.

36.

His Princely Vertues gain'd had such Fame,  
 The Nations and Confederates round about,  
 Did all agree to deifie his Name;  
 The Barbrous People whom he oft did rout,  
 Doe now come in to fortifie the same,  
 Though Late Revolters, Rebels fierce and stout;  
 Embassadors declare from ev'ry part,  
 The *Romans* had promoted true desert.

37.

Now of this Change the Commons were full glad,  
 Unto this civill Rule to be recal'd,  
 But yet the guard of Souldiers were as mad  
 To see their Rape and insolence forestall'd,  
 Which they resent and are no long time Idle,  
 But doe resolve not to endure the bridle.

Yet

38.

Yet for a while they doe but grudge and grumble,  
Two months there was for all men to Appeale,  
Then Fortune blind did topsey turvy tumble,  
What he design'd for good and Common weale;  
And thus the Commons might no more be scant'd;  
He first decreed the wast Lands should be plant'd.

39.

Yea though what was the Princes owne demeane,  
To Husbandmen he gave it to manure,  
With promise likewise during all his Reigne,  
From ten yeares Tax their Farms should be secure;  
The Emprours goods he also did disdeign;  
To stamp his own name he would not endure,  
Nor take unto himself at any rate,  
But said they did belong unto the State.

40.

Since Tyrants Death all Tolls and Impost ceast,  
At River Banks, Highways and City Ports,  
An Optimacy now their harm releast,  
Informers false that daringly resorts;  
He strict Commands they forthwith shall be banish'd,  
And for their former faults severely punish'd.

41.

Both Rich and poore were safe and free from strife,  
A fellow then a Prince he seem'd rather;  
His Son not at the Court, Led private Life,  
To Schooles of learning often went the Father,  
And Publike exercise did eke frequent,  
In Pomp or State he seldome came or went.

42.

His Rule to just inflam'd the Souldiers rude,  
Their insolence and Rapine now decreast;  
O Savage minds I they in a Frantick moode  
His Death complotted at a dreadfull Feast;  
Then in their fury to the Court they pranc'd  
In Warlike March, with Swords and pikes Advanc'd.



43.

The Courtiers had no more themselves to Arme,  
 Within the verge each left his several place,  
 For being frighted with this share Alarm,  
 They estooped full before the King's royal Face,  
 And prayed that he would save him self by flight;  
 The People (they were sure) would aid his Right.

44.

Although he knew their Counsel well Advis'd,  
 Yet did not think it was a fit Decree,  
 His former Glory should be so dissolv'd,  
 To be afraid and run away before him;  
 Then unamazed a Princely stand he made,  
 And reason'd thus their malice to dissolve:

45.

The life you seeke to you is little gaine,  
 Or losse to me, Arrived at this Age;  
 All Humane things we ought to count as vaine,  
 Yet Honour doe I weare as chiefest Badge;  
 You are by Oath my Person safe to guard,  
 Whom if you kill, small will be your reward.

46.

My Conscience tells me I have wrong'd you never,  
 And if at *Cremus*' death you doe repine,  
 No man that breaths is born to live for ever;  
 Yet well you know it was no fault of mine,  
 My Innocence pleads for me altogether,  
 Of Least suspect in me there is no signe;  
 Though he be dead, if you forbear this hate,  
 You shall have Large estate for your estate.

47.

\*The like ef-  
 fr & of Maje-  
 ste in *Q. Olym.*  
 See *Justim.* l. 14.

This Speech concluded, diverse did retreat,  
 Such Awe \* they had and Reverence of the Prince  
 Yet others kill'd him in a furious hate,  
 Worse deed was never done before of state;  
 But now the people all was in a sweare,  
 And left they should offend him, them convince,  
 To 'th Camp they got Immured in their Walls,  
 This end Remov'd from the Kings face.

Great

Great Cries were made for Pain and Lamentations  
In every Coast, and throughout every City:  
Now fresh in mind they bear their old Vexations,  
Their Father dead, who is that will ease them any;  
Full well they know they must have new Taxations,  
Thus Frantick like they sing a wofullitty,  
The Nobles and the Rich to shun their Harms,  
Doe all retire unto their Country Farms.



## Canto VII.

### The ARGUMENT.

Prætorians praise the Empire unto Sale,  
And Julian buys it with the Common Cattle;  
Niger is praised who sells a Judith Tale,  
Plays and Reverts of Idleness, the Nurse;  
He makes a Speech and Emperour is elected,  
Yet too secure, of Error is detected.

1.

**T**Hough life we Lose, yet must wee not give ore,  
Our study how the Common-wealth to save;  
Example Late we shew'd you heretofore,  
Whose Vertues Live though he be laid in grave:  
This is the Hope we have in doing well,  
Good Fame we get, which after Ages tell.

2.

When all was hush, the Soldiers from their Walls,  
Proclaime aloud the Empire to be sold,  
And all the People round about them Cals,  
To know the man that will depart with Gold;  
Avouching, that he need not feare to force,  
For him they would invest with Armed Force.

Bravery of a  
Roman Spirit.

Of all the Nobles that were left behind,  
None would appear, this offer they did scorn;  
Yet *Julian* he was of another mind,  
He thought with Honour to Equal his Fortune,  
And in his Topy Cups when he was Jolly,  
His Wife and Daughters doe promote his Folly.

The R. M. M.  
fare not at  
Tables.

Then up he gets and hies him from his Pallat,  
With *Parasites* that could his humour tell,  
When Wine was got into his drunken Sallat,  
He aptest was for gaining buy and sell,  
Aloud he calls and to the Souldiers told,  
His Chests were full of Silver and of Gold.

Another Copes-mate came, *Salpitian* hight,  
That proffer'd ready Money at their Call;  
But him refus'd, the lot on *Julian* light,  
Whom yet they keep in pledg upon the Wall,  
Till they receiv'd the sum which he did offer,  
Then let him down accepting of his proffer.

6.

*Commodus* Lawes he promis'd to restore,  
And Statutes eke which Senators pull'd downe,  
With Liberty, such as they had before;  
The Souldiers also should have many a Crowne,  
More then he promis'd, or they could demand;  
For why, he had it ready at Command.

7.

The Souldiers straight allured with this Hope,  
Proclaim him Prince by *Commodus* surname,  
With Ensigns spread (who rather earn'd a Rope)  
And Pictures gay he to the City came,  
When first in Court according to the Gullie,  
He finish'd had the worsted Sacrifice.

Yet

8.

Yet stronger then accusom'd was his Guard,  
For that by bribes the Empire he did seize,  
Or else perhaps the people had him fear'd,  
His shamelesse dealing nothing did them please;  
And lest they should affront him in the way,  
The Souldiers put themselves in Battel ray.

9.

Being thus Prepar'd they ready were to fight,  
Amidst their Troopes they placed him among,  
And or'e their heads they bore \* their Targets right,  
The better to avoide the Peoples Throng,  
Or Tiles from houses might not on them light,  
To th' Palace they conducted him along:

\* In form of a  
cestudo. vid.  
L' Ipsius de  
mibit Rom.

The Commons on this matter fell to scanning,  
And stood aloof with Curfing and with Banning.

10.

The Souldiers now doe ravine in Extream,  
The world appear'd as if it were in Dotage;  
Both high and low were slumbring in a Dream;  
Not any sought to Catechise this Broasage:

The Princes Death and many moe beside,  
( With Sovereign Rule ) the Mutineers deride.

11.

Thus Julian the Empire having Ravish'd,  
Did State Affaires and Princely garbe neglect,  
In Riot and disorder soule he lavish'd,  
For which the Souldiers roundly him detect;  
And now at length they jeered him and taunted,  
His Coine fell short whereof so much he vaunted.

12.

Th' Exchequer Commod's vaine disports exhausted,  
And Souldiers falling short were much offended,  
The Commons knew their minds, and to them posted,  
Whereby his matter was not much Amended;  
They raile and scoff when er'e he comes abroad,  
And of his lewd behaviour lyes on Load.

I

In

13.

\* Horfe-race  
of Ovall form  
able to con-  
tain 100000  
Spectators.

In publick \* Cirque they *Julian* cry downe  
And *Niger* call'd to rectifie the State;  
They will no more be rul'd by such a Clowne,  
Already are their wrong to vindicate;  
This *Niger* was of *Syria* President  
A place of all the rest most Eminent.

14.

As far as *Euphrates* is his Command  
Of Fame renown'd and held in high esteeme;  
In all Assemblies they for him doe stand,  
Another *Pertinax* he now doth seeme;  
They *Julian* brand with shamefull defamations,  
And *Niger* cry with Royall Acclamations.

15.

When *Niger* heard the other so contemn'd,  
And that they cri'd up him in every meeting,  
*Julian* for falshood standing thus condemn'd,  
Himselfe he knew should have the fairer greeting;  
The better to promote these high affaires,  
He sends his *Capitane* to divulge these aires.

16.

This silent Course did carry least suspect,  
For when they saw he sought not to invade,  
With Votes they wooe him, as he did expect,  
From all parts come Acceptance to perswade;  
The *Syrian* Nation also are as prone  
Him to invest in the Imperiall Throne.

17.

\* Their Cha-  
racter.

The *Syrians* \* much to *Niger* were devoted,  
For that his Rule so gentle was and mild;  
On Plaies and Pastimes over-much they doted,  
By suff'rage his they sooner are beguild:  
At *Antioch* he Bala and Maikes promoted,  
To which the People run as they were wild;  
To take the Sovereign Rule they him beseech,  
Then up his Seat he mounts and makes a Speech.

How



18.

How I have rul'd you with a gentle hand,  
And Punctuall been in all my undertaking,  
Is known I think to all men of this Land,  
Nor is the Tale I tell of my owne making;  
The *Romans* cry as erst to you was told,  
The Empire Late is bafely bought and sold.

\* *Niger's*  
Speech.

19.

To undertake fo great an Enterprife,  
Presumption were without good grounds before:  
So might it be imputed Cowardice,  
Friends to forsake when they our help implore;  
For this Cause I conven'd you that are wise,  
To give advife in this fo great uproar:  
And if by Counsell rightly you designe,  
It will be to your praise as well as mine.

20.

Nor is our Hopes contemptible or vaine,  
The *Romans* of themselves are so resolv'd,  
Uturping *Julian* shall no longer Reign,  
On them the Worldly Rule is sole devolv'd,  
*Prætorian* Bands, besides of Cash defeated,  
Doe now complain how they by him are cheated.

21.

And nothing surer is then our Design,  
So forward are they that our succour craves,  
Of Opposites there is no manner signe,  
The Souldiers know full well he is a knave;  
His credit's crackt, he is of Breach detected,  
Then shew your freedom how you stand affected.

22.

The Army thus; O Emprour our *Augustus*,  
With Purple Robes your Grace we thus invest;  
And that you may have better caule to trust us,  
This Title we confer above the rest:  
Then fire before they in his Mansion Place him,  
With all the Regall Titles that may grace him.

I 2

*Niger*

23.

*Niger* was glad at heart of this incesse,  
 He now had little doubt of Sovereigne State;  
 The *Romans* and the rest both more and Lesse,  
*European Nations* doe congratulate;  
 Embassadors from all parts make Approch,  
 And Emp'our him salute at *Antioch*.

24.

From *Tygris* and *Euphrates* Princes send,  
 Rejoycing much and promising their Aid;  
 Both men and money they will to him Lend,  
 With Thanks and Gifts he to this Message said:  
 Of quiet rule he had assurance good,  
 And hop'd to wield the Scepter without blood.

25.

He in this confidence too long repos'd;  
 With *Antiochians* and the Neighbours round;  
 To Theaters and Sports himself dispos'd;  
 By which appear'd his judgment was not found;  
 To *Rome* he should have gone, not staid in *Syria*;  
 Or yet neglect the Souldiers in *Ibrya*.

26.

But these he hop'd would side with Easterne Forces;  
 While thus demcan'd be on the shallowes Anchor'd;  
 For *Ister Banks* and *Rhine* observ'd his Courses;  
 Full little thought he they would prove so cankred:  
 But in this story if you take some pleasure;  
 I will receive the rest at further leisure.

CANTO



## CANTO VIII

## The ARGUMENT.

Severus we describe his *Dreams and Policy*;  
*A Speech he makes and Emprour is Elected*;  
*He Expedites to Rome surpriseth Italy*;  
*Julian is slain, of Bribery detested*;  
*Train Bands are catch'd, which could not be evaded*;  
*A Speech to them whereby they are degraded*;

**T**He world you see is like unto a Stage,  
 Where ev'ry Actor plays a fey'ral part;  
 Some King, some Lord, some Servant is or Page,  
 And some think juggling is a pretty Art:  
 So *Julian* here for Empire late durst Barter,  
 And Souldiers for his money Seal'd his Charter.

Some Garrisons were kept as erst I told  
 On *Ister Banks*, and on the River *Rhoyne*,  
 The *Roman Empire* to defend and hold  
 Against the *Barbrous people* that adjoyne;  
*Severus* was of *Africk* by descent,  
 And of the whole *Pannonia* President.

This was a Gallan, Brave, and Active man,  
 Yet in \* his moode of Spirit somewhat furious;  
 Austere of Life, his visage pale and wan,  
 Of Labour great, in Travaile nothing curious;  
 Of quick Resolve and nimble Apprehension,  
 To execute what er'e was his Intention.

4.

The *Roman* Empire hovering in the Aire,  
 And Meteor like uncertaine where to fall;  
 Catch that catch may, he see 'twas open faire,  
 Then in this Market he set up his Stall:  
 Usurping *Julian* was too much Pragmatick,  
 And *Niger* dull so muddy braine flegmatick.

5.

He also had Presages by his dreams,  
 Which credit best obtaine by their Event;  
 Although to some they prove uncertain Theams;  
 That cannot guesse what good or harme is meant,  
 And often faile, for surely they are gleams  
 If one could rightly hit of their intent;  
 Then one of his I must not here omit,  
 Because I find it in the Booke he writ.

6.

His dreame. When Sovereigne Rule on *Pertinax* did light,  
 And he is Leigeman sworne in Word and deed,  
 Then went he home and dreamed that same night  
 He saw him mounted on a Gallant Steed,  
 Adorn'd with Princely Trappets as was meet,  
 Which Carri'd him along the Sacred Street.

A street in  
*Rome.*

7.

But when he should into the *Forum* enter,  
 Where *Democrasick* \* people make their meeting,  
 The Prince to ground the Beast threw at adventure,  
 Which seemed to the rest a homely greeting;  
 Yet to himselfe he came with faire Decorum,  
 On whom he mounts and gallops through the *Forum*.

\* Popular rule

8.

*Severus* then was lifted up between  
 The People there, and him they all adore,  
 A Brazen Image standeth to be seen,  
 This to Record which never was before;  
 By this his Dreame he Cogitates alone,  
 He was Divinely called to the Throne.

His

9.

His *Captiv* straight about him he convenes,  
Resolv'd to try how they his Rule affected,  
And plainly told by what unworthy means  
The Sacred Empire is so much neglected;  
Then to his purpose all the Souldiers leaves,  
Train'd Bands of Treason foully is detected:  
Thus of this matter they debate no further,  
But will revenge good *Pertinax* his murther.

Full well he wist that *Pertinax* his Name  
In their *Thyrian* Army shined Glorious;  
For there in *Marcus* time he gained Fame,  
And o' the German Nation was Victorious:  
A man of Prudence and of Moderation  
None might compare in all the *Roman* Nation.

11.

A Soul of sweet and 'genious disposition,  
Th' *Affinays* ( he knew ) they fought to have,  
And he with them will make due Inquisition,  
If they consent 'tis all that he will crave;  
With this his faire and winning Proposition  
This easie People like to Sheep he drave;  
And linckt them all in Chaine of perfect Unity,  
Whereon he grounds his further Opportunity.

12.

They \* in this Region are a race of men  
Of mighty Limb, and Body somewhat full,  
Tall Souldiers too if once their Foe they ken,  
But yet of slender Wits and temper dull;  
Such subtle Drifts they meet but now and then,  
When therefore this did penetrate the Skull:  
They him believe, then doe themselves submit,  
And in his Stile the Sovereigne Title writ.

\* Their description.

*Quare Guald-  
mar Bishop  
Spoleito.*



13.

The dull *Pannonians* thus he set in order,  
 With Promise large to ev'ry Northern President,  
 Great Hopes he gave the Regions that did border,  
 Of Right pertaining to the *Roman* Regiment;  
 A deep Dissembler and a subtle Plotter,  
 A crafty Fox and cunning as an Otter.

14.

\* A Darke  
 subtle Prince.

To falsifie his Oath to serve his turne,  
 To Cogg and feigne he quicly knew his part;  
 Against his Letters that they might not spurne,  
 His pen oft told what was not in his heart:  
 Their burdens he Avouch'd should not be heavy,  
 Whereby great store of Souldiers he did Leavy.

15.

And *Portinax* Sirname he did assume,  
 For that he knew was worthy of Esteem;  
 Both currant in *Ibrya* and at *Rome*,  
 o like an humble Saint he then did seeme:  
 Yet you shall see he was no tardy Drone,  
 But first this Speech from his Exalted Throne.

16.

Severns  
 Speech to the  
 Army.

The Zealous Love to gods that you revere,  
 By whom you swore your Emp'ours true Devotion,  
 In this contest doth singular appeare,  
 For me I never thought of such promotion,  
 But still Obey'd my Sovereignes Just Commands,  
 And will with you correct *Pratorian* Bands.

17.

What you require I purpose to pursue,  
 The Sacred Empire now doth suffer much,  
 Which you and I will rectifie anew,  
 Yet *Commod's* slips we will but lightly touch:  
 His youthfull strain deserves Commiseration,  
 For Fathers sake let's use some mitigation.

His

18.

His fault you know ought rather be imputed  
To Sycophants, which did his youth mislead;  
But *Persimac* of Noble Fame reputed,  
By wicked Hands so Direfully struck dead,  
And *Julian* eke that in his Seate did Mount,  
These dismall deeds we call unto Account.

19.

Of Commons he and Souldiers is detested,  
They now perceive his purpose to delude,  
By Craft and Bribes he got him selfe invested,  
Thus shamefully did in the Throne intrude;  
Yet if defend this wretched Act they durst,  
Your skill in Arms will put them to the worst.

20.

You often skirmish with the Rude *Barbarians*,  
With toyle and Travell, scorning heate and Cold;  
Train'd Bands are Pamp' red like unto Maidmarians,  
In Martiall feates who ever knew them bold;  
You \* Hunting use, they live like Lazy Carriages;  
Your Shout and Shock, they dare not once behold;  
You water drinke and wade through Rivers frozen,  
They stall fedd are, and wanton ease have chosen.

A Military  
Exercise.

21.

If any doe the *Syrian* Force misdoubt,  
Withall they may their Cowardise Collect;  
They from the Country never marched out,  
Or had to *Rome* Intention or Respect:  
These Silken *Syrians* are no Souldiers Martiall,  
But are to disports and pastimes o're Partiall.

22.

Though they of *Antioch* doe on *Niger* dote,  
Since none yet like an Emprour doth appear,  
The Townes and Cities that are more remote,  
Of you and me doe stand in double feare;  
They think you will advance to pay their Cote,  
And me they know since I did Govern there:

Our fury they will shun and their owne harmes,  
They must subscribe to us in feates of Arms.

K

Then

23.

Then let us instant march and seize on *Rome*,  
 The Princely Palace we shall soone obtaine;  
 For so to us an easie Rise will come,  
 And due revenge on *Julian* we shall gaine:  
 Divine Prefages praedictans good Event  
 If your Victorious Arms crosse their Intent.

24.

This Speech he ended thus and nothing lacks,  
 The Souldiersleap and shout with Acclamation,  
*Augustus* they him call, and *Perinax*,  
 With cheerfull Votes they make this Proclamation;  
 Then lightly Arm'd, their geere they trusse in Packs,  
 Without delay or more procrastination:  
 He gives them Largeesse fit for such a journey,  
 Himselfe in person needeth no Attorney.

25.

Scarce suffering once his weary Troopes to rest,  
 He march'd with Courage bold and nimble Speed;  
 They post away as some doe to a Feast,  
 Yet Cates have none but what they barely need:  
 He fellow-like no Pomp would have at all,  
 Which made the Souldiers ready at his Call.

26.

Then through the great *Pannonia* was his Race,  
 Where estrioues seen a Prince preventing Fame,  
 And up th' *Italian* Hills he climbs apace,  
 Before they knowledg had from whence he came;  
 Such quick approach the People heard of never,  
 Which puts the Cities in a shaking fever.

27.

They Arms had left, and tooke them to manure  
 Their Country Farms, living a quiet Life;  
 The former Armbles made them so secure,  
 With Barb'rons folke they have no fear of strife:  
 Forsooth (say they) our troubles have an end,  
 Our *Roman* Power to all parts doth extend.

28.

Indeed when first *Augustus* seiz'd the Monarchy,  
So quiet and Pacifick was his Rule,  
The people fell to lassic kind of Lethargy,  
Their wits grew dull as either Horse or Mule :  
Because that none should interrupt the Hierarchy,  
His Souldiers guard ev'n to the utmost \* *Thule* ;  
Some parts had Ditches, Rivers deep and Fountaines,  
Some Deserts had, some Rocks and craggy Mountaines.

\* The furthest  
Northward.

29.

No marvaile then if they were sore agast,  
To see such mighty Troopes of armed men,  
Not knowing where the Frontiers they had brast,  
To march so fiercely thus within their ken ;  
*Severus* yet they heard it was at last,  
Which partly put them in their wits agen :  
No help at hand, they thought it best to greet him,  
With *Laurels* in their hands they run to meet him.

30.

Yet where he came he made but little stay,  
Except it were to doe his Sacrifice,  
Or to salute the People in the way ;  
His head of other matters did devise ;  
The first designe was quick to post to *Rome*,  
To bring usurping *Julian* to his Doome.

31.

Who now from Commons had but little Hope,  
And lesse from Souldiers that do him detest,  
He thought the time was come to stretch a Rope,  
His guilty Conscience did him so molest ;  
He Labors friends and scrapes beyond all measure,  
Defacing Temples to engrosse the Treasure.

32.

This wicked deed was for the souldiers hire,  
Who ne'r the more will ease him of his meane,  
By former breach he known is for a liar :  
Assistance now Train'd Bands will give him none,  
His friends advise he shall the *Alpes* preclude,  
Yet nought could stop the Vengeance that enuide.

33.

The Alps.

To *Italy* these Mountaines are a Wall,  
 This Nature added to that happy soile;  
 Yet *Julian* Dastard durst not budge at all,  
 But with the Souldiers doth him/elfe turmoile;  
 He them intreats the *Elephants* to Traine,  
 That Riders might command with Bit & Raine.

Elephants  
Train'd.

34.

The Northern Army thus he thought to Daze,  
 As being unacquainted with this Beast;  
 But shortly he him/elfe was in Amaze,  
*Severus* straight did interrupt the jest  
 His men the City entred severall wayes,  
 And th' other taken tardy in delays.

35.

Stratagem.

(Disguis'd) by night they enterprise the Towne;  
 In *Julians* bosome er'e he was aware;  
 Some wore a Frock, some habit of a Clowne,  
 And now the Common People doe not spare  
*Julian* from Dastardy, *Niger* of sloth,  
*Severus*, he must carri't from them both.

36.

No Receipt a-  
gainst feare.

How glad would *Julian* be to share a part  
 Of Sovereigne Rule, or utterly resigne;  
 But Senators that knew his fainting heart,  
 To cut him off doe thus resolve in fine:  
 A Tribune was at hand, to him they leave him,  
 Who of his wretched life doth soon bereave him.

37.

Then Noble Lords from Senate had Commission,  
 To Grace *Severus* with Imperiall Crowne;  
 Thus had he what he sought by their Permission,  
 And was invested in the Regall Throne:  
 When all things came so fitly to his hands,  
 He layes a plot to catch *Pratorian* Bands.

The



38.

The Tribunes and Centurions he pursues,  
With promise faire they shall have due reward,  
To bring their men as in the solemn shewes,  
For they quoth he ( once sworne ) shall be my guard ;  
The Souldiers then not doubting further harms,  
Doe soone consent to lay aside their Arms.

His sublety.

39.

So Issue forth with *Lancel* Branch in hand,  
And Equipage as to a Solemne Feast;  
*Severus* this was made to understand,  
For he their welcome had demurely drest :  
While they before him doe their Presents bring,  
He casts his Troopes about him in a Ring.

40.

This was a Martiall feate to catch a dolt,  
Yet he Commands they shall not wound or strike ;  
You may perceive he was a crafty cole,  
For his was Arm'd with Javelin and with Pike ;  
*Pratorians* then when he had thus surrounded,  
With Lofly voyce this Speech to them propounded :

41.

You see how much our skill doth yours surmount,  
You now are caught and stand at my devotion ;  
For black and ugly Deeds you must account,  
His blood you spilt by whom you had promotion :  
Good *Pertinax* the Prince that none offended,  
Whom you ( his guard ) should rather have defended.

*Severus* Speech  
to the *Prato-*  
*rians*.

42.

You next for Coyne the *Roman* Empire Trust,  
As if it did belong to you direct ;  
Yet when you had the Princely Marrow suckt,  
You dust not once your Marchant man protect :  
But when he came in quest'on, you elsfoones  
Betray'd, like Villanes false and base Poultroones.

43.

A thousand Deaths for your Enormous Crime  
 Too little were if I your due should render;  
 Pollute my hands I will not at this time,  
 Or Learne of you, my Wit is not so slender:  
 Yet since the Royall Blood you have not spar'd,  
 You shall no more be of the Emp'ours guard.

44.

Of Noblenesse I give more then I owe,  
 My Souldiers first ungirdling your Attire,  
 Your Soules and Bodies on you I bestow;  
 Then pack away far off, you I require.  
 For neer this City if you dare be found,  
 I here decree you shall be hang'd or drown'd.

45.

Th' *Illyrian* Souldiers ready at their duty,  
*Prætorian* Swords with Gold and Silver wrought,  
 They quick ungirt, full glad of such a Booty,  
 These knacks for feasts and solemne shewes were brought,  
 For Scarfs and Feathers yet they further raked;  
 Train'd Bands they stript, and left them all stark naked.

46.

These Novices thus taken with a wile  
 ( Though glad of Life ) depart with heavy cheare;  
 Full sore they rue they did themselves beguile,  
 To leave their Arms that they were wont to beare:  
 Thus to be cast they count a shamefull Doome,  
 And others grac'd that must supply their Roome.

47.

A further plot this Prince had to secure  
 Their Camp, lest they to that returne againe;  
 Some Troops of Horle he sent to make it sure,  
 And seize the Arms, for that must them constrain:  
 Thus these *Assassins* were justly banish'd,  
 And for their breach of Oath condignly punish'd.

*The End of the second Book.*



The Third Book.

CANTO IX.

The ARGUMENT.

*Severus at Rome 'gainst Niger now prepares,  
He of the Brittaines hath some kind of doubt,  
Albinus ( Caesar ) forthwith he declares,  
Herodian writes of seventy yeares throwghout;  
Nigers intends to fortifie Mount Taurus,  
His Generall is defeated by Severus.*

I.

**H**OW carefull ought we be our Lives to spend,  
For sure we shall be recompenc'd at last,  
Ifill we live we must expect such end,  
So Julian sped that now is gone and past,  
Yet on this Text I must no longer dwell,  
But let you know what to the next befell.

*Severus enters Rome in Battell range;  
The People at the first were sore afraid,  
His daring and his Enterprise was strange,  
Yet blood was none to make them ill Apaid,  
Then Peers and Commons glad were of the change,  
With Laurels in their hands they to him said:  
For Wit, for Judgment, and Heroicke Deeds,  
They now perceive all other he exceeds.*

Great H's Elogy.

Great welcome there was made this Prince to greet,  
 The Nobles and the Commons him salute,  
 Due thanks he doth return as then was meet;  
 Yet car'd not much with them to hold dispute;  
 But to the Temples of the gods he rode,  
 Then at the Palace makes his first Abode.

Next day into the Senate House he went,  
 His Hand he gave and pleasant Speech Address:  
 For Princes death revenge was his intent,  
 And this to all he solemnly profest;  
 For Optimacy he will frame a plot,  
 All Bribes and Tyranny shall be forgot.

Except by Law none life or goods should loose,  
 So *Marcus* rule and *Pertinax* his mind,  
 Informers should not catch them in a noose,  
 Thus stroaked he the Senators in kind:  
 Some Credit gave, some said they were but mocks,  
 The Elders said he was a wily Fox.

His Censure.

Howe're the Souldiers tasted of his bounty,  
 And Commons eke had Donative of Corne,  
 His Fame was spread in ev'ry County,  
 Though late you heard they thought themselves forlorne;  
 Then quick he march'd with Souldiers good and trusty,  
 'Gainst *Nigers* men, who yet were dull and rusty.

He joyned to his men *Italian* youth,  
 The flower (I meane) for dignity and place;  
 When Souldiers in *Ilyria* heard the truth,  
 They speed away to meet his Troopes in *Thrace*:  
 Of Gallies and of Ships he prest a Fleet,  
 With Mariners and Neecessaries meet.

8.

A mighty Magazine he loone had got,  
Provision now must not be with the least;  
For well he knew though *Niger* was a Sot,  
He did Command the Nations of the East;  
And then in *Brittane* he had not forgot,  
With Valiant men it was no time to jest:  
We must quoth he beware of those behind us,  
As Souldiers good whose Generall is *Albinus*.

He had some  
feare of the  
*Brittaines*.

9.

This man of Honor was and high descent,  
*Severus* then that well could play his priue,  
Left that he should be crosse to his intent,  
Did lay a baite to catch him in this wife;  
By Sugred Letters and congratulations  
He maketh him most loving Protections.

10.

And thus in Courtly Phrase doth *Caesar* stile him,  
Desiring him the Empire to protect:  
This Glorious Title quickly did beguile him,  
No Stratagem herein he doth suspect;  
*Severus* said I gouty am and old,  
You Noble, Young, A Gallant brave and bold.

11.

*Albinus* rashly swallow'd downe this gudgeon,  
*Severus* then to give the better gloss  
Desir'd the Senate not to tak't in dudgeon,  
For he their wisdomes had no will to crosse;  
Yet now he prays they gently will incline,  
All which was done to blanch his owne designe.

12.

Then Coyn he stamp't, and Statues did advance  
To *Albine Caesar* as he had projected;  
His Subtle Wit had Lull'd him in a trance,  
And *Niger* now he meanes to see corrected:  
*Ibryan* Force he gathers in a Body,  
Then roundly march'd against this dullard Nody.

L

What



13.

What Stations by the way, what Speech or prodigie,  
 What Conflicts and what Number there were slain  
 Of such before as writ his Acts or Elogie,  
 Some Records doe unto this day remain;  
 Yet these aside *Herodian* never feares,  
 To tell the truth observ'd in seventy yeares.

*Herodian*  
 writes of 70  
 years of his  
 own know-  
 ledge.

14.

Now *Rome* was seiz'd *Severus* is proclaim'd,  
*Niger* starts and calls in his Vicegerents,  
 By Sea and Land expecteth to be main'd,  
 Yet Ports he stops and sends to his adherents;  
 From *Parthia* aide he craves, and from *Armenia*,  
 With other Bord'ring Nations to *Syrenia*.

His Prepa-  
 ration.

15.

Some Neutrals speake and will themselves defend,  
 Some Answer they with Council will conferre,  
 A band of Archers hole of *Atra* send,  
 The grosse was made with Soldiers he had there;  
 Some youth of *Antioch* were more bold then wifey,  
 For *Niger* they will help to play his prife.

16.

Mount *Taurus*  
 fortified.

Of *Taurus* then the Precipice and Mount  
 He fortified with Straits that doe belong;  
 Impassable this place by his account,  
 With walls he did mount exceeding strong;  
 This was unto the East a Barricado,  
 And serv'd him as a block to make Bravado.

17.

For *Taurus* rising up a stately Ridge  
 Twixt *Cappadoce* and Country of *Cilicia*,  
 Doth part the East and North as with a Bridge;  
 In *Bizance* \* too he plac'd a strong Militia,  
 (The Chiefe and mighty City then of *Thrace*)  
 For strength and wealth none like unto this place.

\* Now Con-  
 stantinople.

Pro.

18.

*Propontick* Straights this City did inclose,  
Like Benefit by Water and by Land,  
From Impost, Fish, from Corn, and Fruit it rose,  
Large fertile soyle was also noer at hand;  
This City he preoccupates before  
*Severus* foot could reach the *Asian* Shore.

19.

Of Millstones squar'd the wall was made compendious,  
So Cemented in whole and every part,  
You might have thought the ( frame was so stupendious, )  
It Nature was, not done by Workemans Art;  
The Ruins yet that lie on heaps so Ample,  
Declare the Force of them that did dismantle.

20.

And thus did *Niger* order his Affaires,  
With Skill he thought; and on the other side  
*Severus* was not slack, but quickrepaires  
With Souldiers stout, incounters all to 'bide;  
Yet 'cause they did *Byzantium* fortifie,  
To *Cyzicum* he wheels his Fate to try.

21.

*Emilian* Leivtenant was to *Niger*,  
Who well observ'd his Enemies intent,  
Because he was the Gen'ral of this Warr;  
At *Cyzicum* to meet the Foe he went,  
And both sides for Encounter doe prepare  
To fight it out with Sword and Pike they meant;  
In bloody Conflict *Nigers* Force was routed,  
*Ilyrian* Souldiers clapt their hands and shouted.

22.

Some said this hapned through *Emilians* frand,  
( Who envied *Niger* as to him superior )  
Some said his children that at *Rome* Abode  
Was ground hereof, not that he was Inferior:  
They by their Letters humbly him besought,  
By suffrage his their Freedome might be wrought?

L 2

As

23.

His Policy.

As *Commod.* erst, *Severus* tooke a Care  
 Their Children to secure that had Command;  
 And these among the rest he will not spare,  
 If Parents doe his enterprize withstand;  
 For such with Guards along with him doe fare  
 In all his journeys both by Sea and Land:  
 Then if their Fathers *Niger* will Assist,  
 He can revenge and kill them when he list.

24.

Now *Niger's* Force at *Cyzicum* o'rethrown,  
 Through Mountaines of *Armenia* fled amain,  
 And hapt to take mount *Taurus* as their owne;  
 Some others back through *Asia* went againe;  
 But when *Severus* Fame was understood,  
 The Cities next fell into deadly feud.

25.

Perhaps not much for Love or hate to either,  
 But through a deadly rancor of their owne;  
 And though they doe intend good will to neither,  
 Yet when Intestine Broyles with them are growne,  
 The men most Eminent for worth and place,  
 They oft extirpat, or at least disgrace.

26.

This strife with them so formerly did lurk,  
 It slav'd them unto *Macedon* and *Rome*;  
 And as you see at this day to the *Turk*,  
 That *Greece* hereby endures a Fatal Do'me:  
 So they at *Cyzicum* and *Nicomede*  
*Niger* reject, and for *Severus* plead.

27.

The Citizens of *Nicaea* then in spight  
 For *Niger* stood, and Souldiers Entertain'd;  
 That thither or *Bythinia* tooke their flight;  
 Such Umpirage Malignity had gain'd;  
 From Cities then they Issue out amaine,  
 As from their Camps and fight it out againe.

But

28.

But after Battell terrible and hot,  
And that *Severus* Victory had gain'd,  
To *Taurus* Streights him *Niger* quickly got;  
With such his scatt'ed Forces as remain'd;  
Where having left enow for that Designe,  
He went to *Antioch* for more men and Coyne.



# CANTO. X.

## THE ARGUMENT.

*Mount Taur's Assault, of Moores, and blondy fight  
Is now my Task the Story you to tell;  
And what a blow on Nigers neck did light,  
Whereby his head from off his shoulders fell:  
Severus Winters march we doe unfold  
Against Albinus and the Brittaines bold.*

1.

**W**He men conclude the Golden Meane is best,  
And once my selfe injoyed that happy State;  
But now the wheele is turn'd I am dittrest.  
By powerfull hand of over-ruling Fate:  
So these that thrive about unwieldy Crowne,  
One mounts aloft another sinketh downe.

2.

*Mount Taurus Fort. Severians doe Assaile,  
A Passage craggy, rough and hard to win;  
On both sides now they fight with tooth and naile,  
Neglecting quite the danger they are in:  
On such as climbe to scale the Guarded Tower,  
They from the top doe stones and Rubbage power.*

Proverb.

3.

Defendants well secur'd most bravely fought,  
 Here few men serve great Numbers to repell;  
 And what they got by pain was dearly bought,  
 The Walls were high, great Cataracts there fell,  
 From Mountain tops, there also was a Fort  
 To barr the Entrance from desired Port.

4.

While this Assault, newes came from *Cappadocia*,  
 As from the Cities mentioned late before;  
 Through Ancient grudge new Mutinies arose,  
 Which put them all into a fresh Uphear:  
 In *Syria* the men of *Laodicea*  
*Antioch* defied and *Tyrus* in *Phanicia*.

5.

Of last discomfiture quick Tidings came,  
 Which made them thus revolt from *Nigers* part;  
*Severus* therefore Emprour they proclaime,  
 Whom Fortune served now as well as Art;  
 And *Niger* erst of gentle disposition,  
 In rage he fell to bloody Inquisition.

*Fessa Moroco*,  
 formerly  
*Mauritania*.

6.

Forthwith he sends unto the Barb'rous \* *Moores*  
 (Who were by nature savage fierce and cruell)  
 To turne the *Laodiceans* out of doores,  
 That to the fire had added so much Fuell;  
 Their City then they enter in a Throng,  
 Put all to sword that were both old and yong.

7.

In Franticke moode then marching unto *Tyre*,  
 They pillage, kill, none meets them but he dies;  
 Then set their City on a flaming fire,  
 And *Niger* Leavies up his new supplies:  
 Meane while *Severus* men doe still persist,  
 Yet at Mount *Taurus* of their purpose mist.



8.

Nor had they hope to carry such a worke,  
Impregnable with Præcipes and Mount;  
In Bulwarks safe their Enemies doe lurk,  
Of them without they make but small account:  
But see the chance, from off the Mountainsrapt  
A sudden flood, which strong Foundation lapt.

9.

Here may you see how nature vanquish'd Art;  
The deluge thus with Massy Building flopt  
Bare all afore, at least to great a part,  
The rest away by piecemeale quickly dropt;  
To them within this seemed something tart,  
Left by the legs they should be shorter lopt:  
The Water downe, each one to save his head,  
In dark of night did quit the place and fled.

10.

This Accident *Severians* greatly cheare,  
As if it hap by Providence divine;  
Guard of the Mount thus being fled for feare,  
They easly scale and entered in the Line:  
When *Niger* heard these tidings, he in hast  
Doth Congregate an Army huge and vast.

11.

With num'rus Troopes he marched then Amaine,  
His *Antioch* youth Alacrity exprest;  
At \* *Iffus* Bay there was a goodly Plaine  
With Hills inviron'd for this purpose best:  
Yet *Nigers* men undisciplin'd and wilfull,  
*Severians* were both Exercis'd and skilfull.

\* Called by  
*Alexander N-*  
*epolis* for his  
victory there.

12.

Now in this Plaine along the Coast they wandery  
A place for Battell not unlike a Stage;  
Some say where *Macadonian Alexander*  
With *Asian Darius* did Engage,  
And then as *Ancient Stories* make it forth,  
The East was likewise vanquish'd by the North.

The Northern  
Regions most fit  
As *Martiall*.

13.

As Victors Trophie still the City Bands  
Aloft, with Brazen Image of his Fame:  
It so fell out that these two mighty Bands  
Not only met, but Fortune had the same;  
Both sides to fight or'e night they ready were,  
Not daring once to sleep for Care and Feare.

14.

Next Morn the Generals by the rising Sun  
Alike encourage Souldiers to Assayle,  
Accounting that who e're the Battell won,  
Must Emp'rour be and beare the Lossest Saile;  
Great slaughter then and mighty deeds were done,  
Where Darts and Arrowes flew as thick as haile:  
Spectators there report a wondrous matter,  
The River *Iffus* ran more Bloud then Water.

15.

At length the *Orientalis* turned back,  
Some tooke the Woods and some the higher ground;  
*Ilyrians* to pursue them were not slack,  
But gave them many a deep and deadly wound;  
Then *Niger* Mounted on a gallant Horse,  
To *Anisoch* fled bereft of all his Force.

16.

Full little Comfort there he had to rest,  
For Sons and brothers people mourn and waile;  
He maketh hast so much he was distressed,  
To Suburb-house, when all things else did faile,  
To hide himself; but e're he went to bed,  
The Horsemen that pursu'd struck off his head.

17.

Thus *Niger* Ends in businesse too remisse,  
Though otherwaies of temper mild and Sweet;  
*Severus* then that was no friend of his,  
Did him and his Adhzrents homely Greet:  
He bearing Spleen with hard and cruell heart,  
Put all his friends to death that tooke his part.  
Though

18.

Though some perhaps unwilling were compell'd,  
He therefore did to them the harder measure;  
Yet souldiers that in Battell Late were quell'd,  
He did forgive and call them home at leasure:  
In this no doubt he had a subtle drift,  
Experience taught him how to wind and shift.

19.

For some among the Barb'rous folk remain'd,  
And taught the use of Sword and Lance to boot;  
Wherewith to fight with *Romans* skill they gain'd,  
Who erst did backwards from their Horses shoot:  
And Armorers did also there betake 'um,  
That shew'd the use of Arms and how to take 'um  
make

20.

*Severus* thus the o'recame Orient,  
The Kings of *Parthia* and *Armenia* next,  
*Nigers* confederates to invade he meant,  
But that *Albinus* much his thoughts perplext,  
Him therefore first he meanes to undermine,  
As Chiefe that stood 'twixt him and his designe.

21.

He heard *Casarian* Title did him puff,  
And Senate Peeres invited him to *Rome*;  
This web he thought was made of homely stuff,  
Worse Newes to him in absence could not come:  
And 'cause no gracefull part *Albinus* wanted,  
He greatly fear'd by him to be supplanted.

22.

Yet at the first resolv'd no open Warr,  
But rather to dispatch him by a Train. His plot  
For that as yet there seem'd no cause of Jarr; Against  
His Posts he meant should put him out of paine, *Albinus.*  
When from his Guards they see him once apart,  
He gave them Charge to Stab him to the Hart.

M

To

# Herodians Imperial History.

23.

To them he also many Poisons gave,  
That might infused be into his Cup;  
But that his friends intending him to save,  
Bids him beware when he doth drinke or Cup.  
*Severus* er'st (say they) hath been perfidious,  
A Branded person, noted as Infidious.

24.

For *Niger's* Captaives had him Roully Maltred;  
Their Children the whom since he put to death;  
His turne once serv'd then Oath no longer lasted,  
But most unkindly stopp their vitall breath.  
By these his actions they were so much fear'd  
*Albinus* streight did double his Life-guard.

25.

Into his presence no man was admitted,  
*Severus* sent till first he had been rackt;  
And those his Ports so ill themselves acquitted;  
Their Masters Credit now within was crackt:  
*Severus* then perceiving how it went,  
A Speech he makes his Army to content:

26.

*Severus* speech touching *Albinus*.  
On me let no Ingratitude reflect,  
You know in League I did *Albinus* take;  
When me alone you grac'd with all respect,  
A part I gave to him for friendships sake;  
Yet now as open Foe he doth protest  
Against us both that plac'd him for the rest.

27.

Our Noble deeds of Arms he doth despise,  
And all the gods by whom he oft did sweare;  
He up in Arms against us else doth rise,  
When all of us he rather should revere:  
To him I Honour gave before all other,  
What could I more have done unto a Brother.

# Herodian's Imperial History!

29.

Ill Offices to doe I count a Crime,  
So most unmanly to endure a wrong;  
We question'd *Niger* in convenient time;  
To which of us the Empire should belong;  
Litigious then, Ambition both did guide,  
But this of *Albinus* we may not abide.

He sole of Grace admitted was Compete,  
When to Imperiall Stems it 'Long'd of Right;  
How dare he then once put us in this fear,  
That vanquish'd have the *Orben* with our might?  
Since to Affront us he is so unwise,  
By Arms I mean his rashness to chastise.

*Cæsar* implies  
Heire appa-  
rant.

30.

Here Gallant men at Arms and *Roman* Force  
Are come as friends and enter'd in our List,  
Who 'ist that can approve his wife's course?  
Are *Iland Brittaines* able to resist  
Our prowess, that so many fields have won?  
Assure your selves his glorie is almost run.

31.

He wallowes deep in Riot and excess,  
Not like a Souldier but a British Swine;  
Then let's advance with wonted cheerfulness,  
Our Guides before us are the gods Divine;  
Whom to dishonour he hath falsely sworn,  
And our Erected Trophies holds in scorn.

32.

Thus having said, the Souldiers doe proclaim  
*Albinus* Traytor with full demonstration;  
He gives rewards now having hit his aime  
Which they receive with shouts and Acclamations;  
And then Advanc'd, concluding with the rest  
To send some Troopes *Byzantium* to invest.

M 2

This



# Herodians Imperial History

33.

\* This Fate  
had *Rockel*.

This City *Nigers* Souldiers held that fled,  
A Famous place, by Famine after taken,  
And quite defac'd when they had lost their head;  
Most of the Dwellers now had it forsaken,  
Vassals the rest to *Peribis* doe Approach,  
So they of *Landice* had *Antioch*.

34.

His Watch-  
Word, *Labore*  
was.

But Cities he repair'd that *Niger* spoyl'd,  
Then halts away with Souldiers blithe and Jolly,  
Through thick and thin by winters March they moyl'd,  
Not resting on the Workday or the Holy;  
Sometimes bare headed through the Snow he toyld,  
Though some perhaps might think it was a folly.  
Yet Souldiers this did imitate in briefe,  
And tooke example from their Royall Chiefe.

35.

The streights *Alpine* he sendeth Force to seize,  
And passage into *Italy* to Barr;  
*Albinus* bides secure (he thought) in peace,  
Till rouz'd with the noise of present Warr;  
Then of his Fate to try the doubtfull Chance,  
Disbarkt an Army on the Coast of *Fraxet*.

36.

His Mandates straight in ev'ry Province there  
He sends about to call him to his side;  
*Servus* Name the most part kept in fere,  
Yet other some unluckily obay'd  
But what event, and which of them did best,  
The Canto next ensuing will digest.

CANTO.



CANTO XI.

The ARGUMENT.

Albinus and Severus fight it out,  
The Brittaines win by Albine bravely led;  
Yet next Encounter they are put to rout  
And Albine Cæsar shorter by the head:  
Severe turns greedy, fierce at wildest Beasts,  
And makes his expedition to the East.

W Be never think enough wee doe acquire,  
Such is the nature of Ambition blind  
The more we have the more we doe desire,  
A vice too incident to human kind;  
Example store we have in evry Age,  
So of these two that now are on the Stage.

Severus now was entred into Gall,  
With skirmish light at first they did begin;  
Yet soone they fight a bloody field withall,  
On both sides to a dayle they never lin:  
Of Victory as yet there was no signe,  
I was hard to say to whom it would incline.

The Brittaines bold in Arms were not Inferior,  
They stoutly fight and kill without remorse;  
The wing Severus charged was Superior,  
Whereby he was disappointed from his Horse:  
So being Cumberd sore with dust and smoak,  
Was forc'd at length to quit a Imperiall \* Cloak.

\* Military Mantle.

4.

\* Lauds.

And hide himself, till Tydings some might bring,  
 Meane while the *Brittaines* follow on the chase  
 With merry glee, and doe their \* Pheasants sing;  
 But *Larus* came with fresh supplies in place,  
 Then at them once againe he had a Ring,  
 And staid their rage, though to his owne disgrace:  
 Some said his men at first he did restraine,  
*Severus* dead, that Empire he might gaine.

5.

And this conceit was prov'd by the Event;  
 For when *Severus* got his former State,  
 He unbethought him, and for *Larus* sent,  
 To take his head for what he did of late:  
 Yet first this let the *Thyrians* to abhor,  
*Severus* mounts againe in Purple Coat.

6.

\* This lost the  
 English to the  
*Normans*.  
 \* Lyons in  
 France.

The *Brittaines* thought them Masters of the Field,  
 Presuming to the sooner to \* disband;  
 But now their Harvest list to Fruit doth yield,  
 They charged were with fresh supplies at hand:  
*Lugdunum* \* Walls that they might not be kill'd,  
 They strive to reach, but could not long withstand;  
 Then City Sack't, the Souldiers that were sent,  
*Albinus* head *Severus* did present.

7.

Two Stately Trophies thus in East and North  
 He rais'd, and other Deeds without compare  
 By him were done as Stories make it forth  
 Examples such with us are seen but rare.

† *Severus* the  
 greatest Con-  
 queror of the  
 World.

Not *Cesar*, *Pompey*, *Scylla*, or great *Marius*  
 For speedy March Excell'd, or Battels furious.

8.

One man to kill three Emperours Elect,  
 And Trained Bands surpris'd by cast of Wilt;  
 To keep his Souldiers in such due respect,  
 To make them for his drifts and purpose fit;  
 For Conquest great and skill'd in ev'ry kind,  
 Search where you will, the like you shall not find.

Though

Though fatal Honour of *Albinus* craft,  
Yet now *Severus* Deeds were intermixt  
With Indignation, fierce as any Beast;  
He caus'd his head to be on Gallies fixt,  
To *Rome* his conquest he inscrib'd hath,  
To *Albinus* friend a Postscript of his wrath.

10.

Th' Affaires in *Brittaine* he with heed inclos'd,  
Two Prefidents he leaves with equal part;  
The *Gallick* matters likewise he compos'd,  
Then Strikes *Albinus* friends unto the heart;  
And now to *Rome* (with speed) he is dispos'd,  
Where many more are like to feel the smart;  
Him Commons meet with *Lowell* Acclamation,  
And Senate Greet with fain'd Congratulation.

11.

Full well they knew his Nature to Oppresse,  
If he contrive there will be no Evasion;  
Yet first unto the gods he makes Addresse,  
Next to the Palace taking no Occasion,  
Then *Largesse* gives, as he no grudge had borne;  
To Souldiers Courte, unto the Commons Corne.

12.

Great Priviledge he to the Souldier gave,  
Augmenting Wheat, then with their wives to dwell,  
And Rings to wear, with other Jewels brave;  
To change their manly diet was not well,  
What care they now their Banners to deprave,  
And when they mend their manners who can tell:  
Who would have thought a man of his Severity  
Could so decline the Militar Austerity.

13.

When Fancy thus had led him to Enact,  
In Senate he ascends his Princely Throne,  
*Albinus* Friends he chargeth with Compact,  
Unhappy they, that thus have cause to moan;  
Of Letters (say) by some he doth Produce,  
And other blame he blames for holding Truce.

With

14.

With them that did resist him in the East;  
 Thus quarrels picks with all *Albinus* friends,  
 Of Peeres and Nobles not of them the least,  
 He put to Death for Avaricious Ends,  
 Though Candid words he gave as sweet as honey,  
 They now perceive too well he loved money.

15.

If he pretends his Enemies to quell,  
 'Tis Gold and pelfe that doth his rancour spur;  
 Though he in Wit and Valour doth excell,  
 Yet Avarice doth here his Honour blur:  
 Great slaughter this his Covetise did move,  
 His Government was more of Feare then Love.

16.

Yet Popular Applause he seeks to gaine,  
 Exhibiting rare Shewes of ev'ry kind;  
 A hundred wild beasts often times are slaine,  
 That came from farr, to please the peoples mind;  
 He Largeesse gives to catch them in a Train,  
 With Active sports their Votes that he may win,  
 And vigils some like *Ceres* have I seen,  
 With Balls and Masks and Interludes between.

17.

In Honour of  
*Apollo* and  
*Diana* Sun and  
 Moon,  
 These shewes at this time Secular they Name,  
 Because three Ages us'd to intervene,  
 And Bedles went about to spread the Fame  
 Through *Italy* the People to convene;  
 For that their years would let them know no more,  
 Or were they born to see the like before.

18.

At *Rome* he staid a while his Sons to State  
 In Sovereigne Rule, that after him must rest;  
 Yet 'cause with *Romans* he had held debate,  
 He Triumph'd not but Marched to the East;  
 His quarrell was the Barbons folly to loose,  
 That had with *V* bred him such Torment to loose.

Ar.



19.

*Armenians* thought it best to make their peace;  
They Hostage gave and store of money sent,  
Desiring him their Trespasse to release,  
For unto him no further harm they meant;  
*Angarus* King would like wife doe no Damage,  
But Archers sent assuring him of Homage.

20.

Full blithe was he thus to secure *Armenia*,  
Away he marcheth making short Abode,  
Then passing by the Country of *Albania*  
Into *Arabia Felix* made a Rode;  
Whence O'drate Herbs and many Fragrant Spices  
Are brought to us, as rare and choise Delices.

21.

When he had wasted many a Towne and Village,  
None being able to resist his will,  
To *Aira* came with store of Coine and Pillage:  
This City standeth mounted on a Hill,  
Well fortified with Bullwark and with Wall,  
And mann'd with excellent Archers stout and tall.

22.

*Severus* then incamped it before,  
And gave to them within a fierce Assault,  
Of Rams and Warlike Engins he had store;  
Yet brave resistance made his men to Halt,  
Great Volles they receiv'd of Shot and Stones,  
Some kill'd outright, some making grievous Mo'nes.

23.

Then Pots they fill'd with little Venom'd Beaks,  
And o're the Wall upon *Severians* flung;  
Some crawled on the Souldiers Face and Breasts;  
Which bite and hisse and privily them stung;  
Nor could they well the stinging Aire endure,  
The Climate was hot and bred the Calenture.

N

Of

24.

Of that they rather dye then by the Fog,  
 The Souldiers droop, this was a lucklesse Leaguer;  
*Severus* thus without Effect did goe;  
 In all his Life he never look'd so Meagre;  
 He Victor was when e're he struck a blow,  
 But failing here he counts himselfe a Begger,  
 And now he thinks himselfe was overcome,  
 Because he fought and did not overcome.

25.

Yet Fortune soone againe did on him smile,  
 He was the man she will not long neglect;  
 Though late his Hopes she seem'd to beguile,  
 It hapned better then he could expect:  
 His men imbarqu'd, and he himselfe full fory,  
 Yet fell not on the *Roman* Territory.

26.

As was (no doubt) the scope of his intent,  
 Both men and ships by violence so harried  
 Neere *Ctesiphon*, to *Parthian* Banks were sent,  
 For Stormy winds them back againe had carried:  
 The King whereof so little did discern,  
 He thought *Atrianians* did not him concern.

*Si vis securus  
 esse, time securi-  
 tatem, St. Ber.*

27.

Much lesse he look'd for any such disaster,  
 For *Romans* gainst their wills were thither driven,  
 Which made them strive to get a shore the faster;  
 Then all the Plaines of *Catrell* soone were thriven,  
 And Townes were burnt with ravaging and Spoile,  
 When *Artaban* expected no such broile.

28.

The Barb'rous folke at unawares they slay,  
 And City sackt, committing spoile and Rape,  
 Both Female Sex and Children led away,  
 The King with Horse had much ado to scape;  
 Then back againe they goe unto their Ships,  
 But first his house of Gold and Jewels strips.

30

This

29.

This Victory not got by choice but chance,  
Obtained when he had so little hope;  
To Roman Peeres his Letters did advance,  
Which signifie how he with them did cope;  
He Tables sent with *Laurels* trimly dight,  
To represent his Conquests got in fight.

30.

And hereupon the Senate doe decree  
The Sirname of the Nations he had wonn,  
And all the rest with them doe well agree,  
Triumphant Honors unto him be done;  
But how he came, and what was his Pretext,  
Read if you please the booke that followes next.



## CANTO XII.

### The ARGUMENT.

Severe in *Triumph* enters in o Rome,  
His Sons dissent, he newes from Brittain bears;  
The Traitor *Plautian* had a rightfull Doome,  
Severus dies opprest with griefe and Feares:  
His Reliques kept when he of life did sayle,  
Antonine and Gete out of Brittain sayle.

I.

**M**Ust Vertue needs corrupted be with Vice,  
Some say indeed as handmaid that Attends;  
And here we see *Severus* was not Nice  
To kill and Plunder all *Albinus* Friends:  
Though this for Ancient Adage seem to make,  
Let us beware and better counsell take.

He visited *My-*  
*fan* and *Pano-*  
*nian* Armies ;  
*Myfa*, now  
*Servia* and  
*Bulgaria*.

Affaires in th' East *Severus* had compos'd,  
His Sons ( bigg youths ) along with him he took ;  
With found Advice good Orders he dispos'd  
In ev'ry Province and in ev'ry nook ;  
Triumphant with the *Romans* him inclos'd,  
With Presents Rich much more then he did looke :  
Then he againe with Pageants, sports and Feasts,  
And Largeffe great, doth grace his welcome guests.

3.

This overpast, he mindeth State Affaires,  
For many yeares at *Rome*, he Liv'd in quiet,  
And sought to Train his Sons that were his heires,  
But they corrupted by the Roman diet,  
With Playes and revells fall into excessse,  
And through debate, from vertue doe digresse.

4.

They first dissent 'bout fighting Cocks and Quailles,  
And wrastling boyes, they adverse parts suborn,  
When e're they met they us'd to turne their Tailes,  
And at the length each other flatly scorne :  
Inveterate Spleen no longer is prorogu'd,  
Thus whetted on by Servants that colloqu'd.

5.

*Severus* yet these Delators did quell,  
And said to *Bassian*, eldest Son of mine,  
In this contest ( my Child ) you doe not well,  
Thou *Marcus* Surname hast my *Antonine* ;  
Then learn of him to shun debate and strife,  
I'll chuse for thee a faire and pleasant Wife.

6.

Some say his  
Catamite in  
yonger years,  
See the *Life*  
*Scalms* Essay  
of *Friendship*.

The Daughter unto *Plautian* this he meant,  
Whom he esteemed as his chiefest Guard,  
His kinsman, and of *Africk* by descent,  
So he himselfe as formerly you heard ;  
This man he Captain made of Trained Bands,  
Who at the first had neither House or Lands.

So insolent he grew from low Degree,  
In rich'd with Goods of such as were condemn'd;  
Beyond the rest most impudent was he,  
Both Peeres and Nobles were by him contemn'd;  
To gaine his ends as false as false might bee,  
And tide of Masters will he so much 'steem'd:  
His Daughter wedded was to Elder Prince,  
Though *Antonine* could never love her since.

8.

Nay more, he did the Lady so despise,  
That oft he threats her dearest life to spill;  
This loathed match did so much him disguise,  
It made him vow her Father eke to kill:  
Who knowing well he was a desperate youth,  
Began to feare it might be so insooth,

Forced Marriage.

9.

Resenting this he will not bide the check,  
*Severus* now diseased was and old,  
And martiall men the rather at his beck,  
Excessive wealth withall to make him bold;  
The *Roman* Senate highly him reveres,  
And to the Commons gracious he Appe'res.

10.

A Stately Garb in Senatorian Robe,  
A Sword was borne before him where he went,  
With Scepter also and a Princely Globe  
He doth the Emprours Person represent;  
Majestick Walke to make the people feare him,  
Some might behold, but very few come neer him.

Plautian the  
greatest Fa-  
vourite of the  
world.

11.

His Ushers doe proclaime how all that meet him  
Shall turn aside, or downeward they must looke;  
Not once presume to be so bold as greet him:  
*Severus* this in great derision tooke,  
And him Commands to be of better carriage,  
Though he was Paranymp and made the Marriage.



12.

Had the Com-  
mand of 1000  
Souldiers.

This Mandate seem'd to him a plaine Affront,  
The Tribune \* *Salmenius* he doth call;  
For this rebuke did make him think upon,  
How he with them might raise a suddaine broil:  
The Tribune come, he instantly doth wooe him,  
And with a Looke compos'd thus speaketh to him:

13.

*Plantians*  
Speech.

Now is the time for you to confirmate  
The Love to me you often have profest;  
And for your merit Ile not be ingrate,  
Of Noble Honour you shall be posselt:  
To be as I am take it to your choyce,  
Or else be dead obeying nor my voyce.

14.

The Enterprise though great should not affright,  
Or Emp'rours Name amate a Gallant mind;  
Your turne is to relieve the Watch this Night,  
And in their Beds you eas'y will them find:  
You may from me contrive a Message Right,  
Then kill them both and serve them in their kind;  
For man or boy what need you care a doir,  
Your Honour will be great in this Exploit.

15.

In warm Cli-  
mate people  
are wise.

The Tribune first a little doth demurr,  
A *Syrian* born of wife and nimble sent,  
Yet soone resolv'd to make but little flurr  
Against his rage, but on his journey went;  
Yet first that he no danger might incur,  
H's warrant he beseech'd for this intent,  
Then he would kill them both that stood before him,  
Liking the plot as Emp'rour did adore him.

16.

This was the Course when Tyrants did Command,  
To kill without Judiciall forme of Law:  
So *Plantian* boldly yeelds to his demand,  
What others think he cared not a straw;  
Yet gave in charge when this was done with hall,  
He might have Wood the Palace to forsake

Or

17.

Or else perhaps when it was nois'd abroad,  
Some others might his grand Designe prevent;  
The Tribune therefore made but short Abode,  
But with Commission on his errand went.  
There (as his custome was) he walks the Round;  
Yet still he thinks the project was not found.

18.

Two men at once in sev'ral place to kill;  
He could not once conceive within his brest;  
This wicked deed to doe he had no will,  
But to disclose it thought for him was best.  
When at the doore to talke he doth begin,  
*Severus* bids the Guard to call him in;

19.

Who said your Deaths man as he makes account,  
That sent me hither with this ready knife,  
I come, he thinks, into your Seat to mount;  
But I my selfe resolve to save your life,  
'Tis Traytor *Plantian* seeke into't no further,  
He me commands You and your Son to murder.

*Salurninus to  
Severus.*

20.

This Scedule bids you may believe Indiring,  
You cannot long delay without your danger;  
I undertooke to bring this present Writing,  
Lest you perhaps might suffer by a Stranger.  
Then that you may no further be annoy'd,  
Bestir your selfe this Traytor to avoyd.

21.

On *Plantians* trust *Severus* much rely'd,  
This matter is said he by fraud devis'd;  
He thinks his Son, that could not him abide,  
Had fram'd it thus to make him more despis'd.  
He calls the Prince and taxeth his Delusion,  
For sure quoth he this is a meer Illusion.

But

22.

But *Antonine* profoundly doth deny it,  
 The Tribune eke produceth *Plautian*'s Warrant;  
 Then swore the Prince that he should deare abide,  
 And thanks the Tribune for his Loyall Errand;  
 Who also knew he must make good his Charge,  
 Then to them both he doth himselfe enlarge.

23.

What further prooffe then this doe you require;  
 Except himself should Evidente the same;  
 Which if you please I humbly doe desire  
 Some trusty friend may call him in my Name:  
 Then you shall know if it be true or not,  
 So all be busht and none descry the Plot.

24.

They thus agreed, there goes a trusty Friend  
 Bids *Plautian* come, for Princes both were slain,  
 The Palace he might seize and Throne Ascend,  
 Him to resist there's none will take the paine:  
 To this Advise he willing care doth lend,  
 The Empire now he doubteth not to gaine;  
 Some few Attendants wait him to the Court,  
 And he a Cursace weares to mend the sport.

25.

As soone as come he past the Corps de Guard,  
 Not knowing yet what was to him intended;  
 The Tribune met him without Watch or Ward,  
 As all were well and nothing could be mended;  
 And seemed then as if he would him Lead  
 Where he had throwne the bodies that were dead.

26.

Him Emp'rour he saluterh for the nonce,  
*Severus* bids the Traytor vile to take,  
 The Warders then fall on him all at once,  
 And now he sees his Head was at the stake:  
 He humbly prayes they will not him misdeeme,  
 Or let this plot to work his discontente.

Sir

27.

Sir, this is but a gull and cunning trick,  
*Severus* yet upbraids him as ingrate,  
 And he againe doth touch him to the quick,  
 Recording still his service done of late:  
 In Praise his heart some pity did remaine,  
 Till that his Armour was discerned plaine.

28.

Then *Antonine* in Choler soon reply'd,  
 For simple guls it seems you doe us take;  
 He bare him grudge and could not him abide,  
 Answer quoth he to questions that I make:  
 Why come you thus ere we for you have sent,  
 Your Curace shewes your Traiterous Intent.

29.

With that the Tribune he commands to kill  
 This Traytor base, as ever yet was born;  
 Both he and all the rest obey his will,  
 Then throw his Carcase out of doores in scorn:  
 To pride and lucre all his life did tend,  
 Which cut him short and caus'd this shamefull end.

30.

*Severus* now in Suburbs spent his time,  
 Or on the Coast \* intending State Affaires;  
 His Purpose and his Actions were sublime,  
 To breed his Sons that were to be his heires;  
 Who in their sports had different successe,  
 By Parasites inflamed more or lesse.

\* *Campania* be-  
 twixt *Rome*  
 and *Naples*.

31.

But *Antonine* ( now *Plautian* dead ) in Chiefe  
 To wife, and all the rest was formidable,  
 Needs dye thee must or else have no reliefe,  
 Thus in his Garbe became intolerable:  
*Severus* though, to her and hers was bounteous,  
*Augustus* \* like to Sons of *Mark Antonius*

\* *Augustus*  
 dealt so with  
*Antonius* his  
 Sons when he  
 became his  
 enemy.  
*Severus* sent  
 these into  
*Sicily*.

And

32.

And now he sought his Sons to reconcile,  
 Acquainting them with Stories New and Old;  
 How Brothers Jarr'd and did themselves begile;  
 He also shew'd them Temples full of Gold,  
 Which soone would wast and Fortune leave to smile,  
 If they observe not what to them he told:

His men of Arms and all that he had wrought,  
 ( If they dissent ) he said would come to nought.

33.

Sometimes he smiles, sometimes he reprehends,  
 But yet his Sons periever worke and worke;  
 Their Sycophants for base, unworthy ends,  
 In Quarrells, Lusts, and Idlenesse them nurse:

Though some had hire according to their merit,  
*Severus* yet had Anguish great of Spirit;

34.

Which to Augment there newes from *Britannia*,  
 By Letters sent to him from his Viceroy,  
 How that the Bar'rous People play their game,  
 And Pillage Planters to their fore Annoy;  
 This to prevent he wils him send more Forces,  
 Or come himselfe with armed men and Horfes.

35.

Though Newes were sharp *Severus* was not sad,  
 Inclining still to Honour and to Action,  
 But of this opportunity was glad  
 To weane his Sons from Riot and from Faction;  
 For *Rome* delights and sports with them in ure,  
 He meant a Souldiers life they should endure.

36.

For journey then, now he is old and Gouly,  
 He straight prepares, though carried in a Litter,  
 The younger sort were not more quick or doughty,  
 Though some might think him for a pallat litter  
 Yet with his Sons the business to contrive,  
 He ( ere they lookt ) on *British* shore Arriv'd.

The



37.

The *Brittains* started doe their Agents send,  
But found delay and went without dispatch:  
Their former faults they gladly would amend,  
No will they have to meet with such a Match:  
But he from them a *Sirname* meane to carry,  
And to that end he and his Souldiers tarry.

38.

It seems this soyle was full of Boggy Fens,  
The Souldiers Bridges make for want of ground,  
And thence they think to chase them from their Dens.  
Or else by fighting give them many a wound:  
These *Brittaines* were a People rude and Naked,  
And eat raw flesh as oft as rost or baked.

Their Elogy.

39.

About their necks they Rings of Iron weare,  
As Easterne Barb'rous People doe of Gold;  
Their pounc'd and painted bodies doe appeare  
More furious when their Foes doe them behold;  
For Caske or Cursee they nor care or feare,  
Yet are with\* Pike and Target fierce and bold:  
From Pooles and Fens the Foggy Vapours fly,  
Which alwayes makes a dark and cloudy Sky.

Sword & Pike,  
King & Queen  
of Weapons.

40.

*Severus* now had all things he desir'd,  
To further his, and Barb'rous folke annoy;  
At *Tark* to guide he *Geta* then requir'd,  
He was a stripling and his youngest boy;  
Yet Concell grave he did to him assigne,  
And tooke with him his eldest *Antonine*.

41.

When they had past the Bounds and River Banks,  
They skirmish light and often got the better;  
But when the Woods and Bogs their men disfranks,  
The Barb'rous People were not much their Debter:  
Their safe Retreits serv'd them the Warr to spin,  
The *Romans* Lose as oft as they did win.

Lost 50000  
men in this

*Severus* service

42.

Severus being sick with Age and faint,  
 Left *Antonine* to prosecute the Warr;  
 But he fond youth his Honour foul did taint,  
 And through neglect doth all the matter marr:  
 His Brother he despis'd, and sick of Father,  
 To get the Sovereigne Rule aspir'd rather.

43.

Severus dyes  
 of griefe.

Physitians he Accus'd of much Delay,  
 His Fathers Death to heare he would be faine;  
 And dealt with them to make him soon away,  
 The place he said doth sole to me pertaine:  
 This brave old man as Stories tell in Briebe,  
 Expired not so much with Age as griebe.

44.

A Famous man, and Victor over more,  
 In Civill broyles and Countryes far Abroad;  
 Then any Emprour that was him before;  
 He Left his Sons of Treasure many a Load,  
 With Souldiers eke most skilfull in their Trade,  
 But *Antonine* (now Chiefe) great Havock made.

45.

He first began to bath his hands in Blood;  
 Physitians and his foster Father eke,  
 That had his frenzy formerly withstood,  
 Of Goods and Lives they soone were both to seeke:  
 That he might Raigae alone without another,  
 He brib'd the Souldiers to depose his Brother.

46.

But herein they deserved great Applause,  
 That hands upon this Bargaine would not Strike;  
 For in the Fathers will there was a Clause  
 That both of them should Honour have alike:  
 Then Peace he made when Words were light as Corke,  
 His Mother and his Brother were at York.

Te.

47.

To them he goes, and being altogether,  
The Emperre and the Lords for State Affairs  
Endeavour'd Discontent should hap to neither  
Of these two Brothers, now the Fathers Heires;  
No remedy I see, quoth *Antonine*,  
But to Accord, thus crost in my Designe.

48.

Then both the Brothers, equall now in Power,  
For *Rome* prepare, and carry Fathers bones;  
Where they arriv'd in a lucky hower,  
To place in Sacred Sepulchre of Stones:  
As Victors first they Marched thorow *GAL*,  
*Severus* life and death you see withall.

*The End of the Third Book.*



## CANTO XIII.

## The ARGUMENT.

*Two Emperours neer doe enter Rome in State,  
 Severus deifed; and Funerall show;  
 Parting the Empire through a deadly hate,  
 Th' Emperesse forbids; Antonine Geta flow;  
 He Cruell is, both prodigall and Savadge,  
 And of the German Souldiers learns to Ravadge.*

1.

**W**Hat was thy fall O *Lucifer* but pride;  
 Was't not enough that thou thy selfe transgreft,  
 But both the Sire and Brothers to divide,  
 And Murder too a Crime by thee profest;  
 Thus past with pride to hold about a Crowne,  
 Much better lost or spurned up and downe,

2.

The Princes and their Mother goe to *Rome*  
 With jarrs and fresh debate, what ere she said,  
 To eat together once they will not come,  
 Of Poyson'd Cups were both alike afraid.  
 The Palace (once at *Rome*) is wide and vast,  
 There to divide they make the greater Halt.

3.

They thither come then, as the Custome was,  
 With *Laurels*, People welcome them and Peeres;  
 The Emperours formost of them all doe passe  
 In Purple Robes, and seem'd to shed some Teares;  
 Next after them, according to their Turne,  
 The Consuls march bearing *Severus* Urne.

In Pompeia State they doe this Venice thing,  
With *Marcus* deare amongst the *Emp*ours besting,  
And in the Temple did their Rites divine,  
Then to the Palace Princes went to dine  
Yet severall Guards and severall Lodgings chose,  
And all the doores betwixt securely close.

They shew'd themselves but to content the People,  
And then their meeting at the Common Gate,  
They both were thicke as any Wall or Steele,  
Which now the *Romans* greatly wonder at:  
Their Semblance yet each other did but threat,  
Till Fathers Name was deif'd compleat.

In that the Brothers were no whit at odds,  
This solemne Rite inviting them to pity,  
The *Romans* call it placing with the gods,  
Which first begins with mourning o're the City;  
The Corps in Sumptuous manner once interr'd,  
The Stately shew no longer is deferr'd.

An Ivory \* Bed o're spread with Cloth of Gold  
In Palace Porch Erected is on high,  
Which mournefully spectators doe behold,  
A waxen Image of the Prince doth lie:  
On one side sit the Noble Lords in black,  
And o're against faire Ladies doe not lack.

\* Deification  
of an Empe-  
rour.

But they in white according to the game,  
Thus for a weeke they Cherish him and Nurle,  
And often come Physicians that are wise,  
Who doe conclude the Patient worse and worse.  
But when he seemeth dead to all Beholders,  
Young Knights and Gallants take him on their shoulders.

And



9.

And carry him along the Sacred Street,  
 Unto the place where stands the Ancient Forum;  
 The Magistrates and Senators him meet,  
 On Scaffolds built the people all deplore him;  
 Then quire of Boys and Ladies singing Welody,  
 With Hymns and Praises making dolefull Melody.

10.

This done, the Bed they take to *Mars* his Field,  
 And there a Structure make quadrangle-wise,  
 Then many Lesser Circ'led Roomes they build,  
 Dry wood within, without it is their guise;  
 Rich Tapestry and Pictures seene, but feild  
 With Ivory statues of a comely Sife:  
 To that you may this Building well compare,  
 Which Ships to Harbor guide is call'd a Phare.

11.

The Bed brought in they throw in heaps of Spice  
 And Odours sweet the best the Earth Affords,  
 \* A City. Herbs, Fragrant Fruits, Gums, Arabicke and \* Nice,  
 The Provinces and Cities search their Hoards;  
 Which Persons great Ambitious are to send,  
 As Presents choyce to dignifie his end.

12.

When they had rais'd this *Aromatick* Pile,  
 The Knightly Orders mount on Gallant Steeds;  
 Then prance and wheele about this Princely *Ste*,  
 Performing many brave and Active Deeds;  
 And farther yet to grace this Mass of Treasures,  
 \* The Funerall Dance. They joyn in fides to dance the *Pyrrhick* Measure.

13.

And Charioters 'bout the Frame doe ride,  
 Bearing the *Roman* Worthies Represents;  
 Then Fire with Torch is set on every side  
 By him that for the Empire next intends;  
 An Eagle eke from Turret Top doth slide,  
 When Herbs and Spices burn with Fragrant Sents:  
 The *Romans* think he carries up his Soule,  
 Whom they Adore, and 'mongst the gods Enroule.

This

14.

This done, the Brothers home againe returne,  
But eftsfoons fall into their deadly feud;  
Worse Flame then erst within their bosoms burne,  
And utterly their better part subdu'd:

The things that either side would have in Action,  
To such as Lov'd them both were great distraction.

15.

Most part to *Geta*, gentle youth inclin'd,  
Because he Learning lov'd and manly Art;  
But *Antonine* they knew of stubborn mind,  
And would because of many broken Hart:

Their Mother seeing them at such Discord;  
Assay'd in vaine to bring them to Accord.

16.

They now resolve the Empire to divide,  
Left one by th' other might be Circumvented;  
This was debated by their Mothers side,  
Their Counsellors and Kinsmen eke convented:

Then they to *Geta Asia* doe Assigne,  
And *Europe* fell in share to *Antonine*.

17.

Their Camps at *Chalcedon* and \* *Bizance* should  
Each other face, and both the Frontiers keep;

The passage to they may defend and hold,  
That neither into others part doe creep:

*Alexandr* or *Amioch* for Counsellone,  
In *Rome* the others shall recide alone.

\* *Constantinople*  
Proponctick  
Gulph di-  
vides both  
Continents.

18.

*Numidian Moores* that lie upon the South,  
To *Anton* fell, *Geta* in the Orient:

While thus, their Mother came with open mouth,  
And said, my Sons I am not so content;

If you so soone can part both Sea and Land,  
Divide me too and kill me out of hand,

P

Each

19.

Each take a part of me and glut his Will.  
 This said, with many Teares she clapt them both;  
 Who now began to think they had done ill,  
 And to offend her seemed very loth;  
 Their Counsell then was presently dismiss,  
 And both content at this time to desist.

20.

Yet hope of Reconcilement there was none,  
 In all Elections different sides prefer'd;  
 And such as for Redresse did make their mone,  
 More partially then justly were deferr'd:  
 Yea at their Sports they contraries maintain,  
 And sought their Cooks and Cupbearers to traine,

21.

With promise Large to poyson Sauce or Cup.  
 Yet howsoe're this Bargaine they respect,  
 Such care is had when they doe dine and Sup,  
 This drift of theirs not yet could take effect;  
 When *Antonine* thus mist by plots and Charms,  
 He kill'd his Brother in his Mothers Arms.

22.

When this was done he runs and cri'd amaine,  
 As if himselfe were likely to be kill'd;  
 With help of Guard the Camp he did obtaine,  
 The Souldiers knew not yet what blond was spill'd:  
 There Images were kept of Veneration,  
 'Fore whom he falls with thanks for Preservation.

23.

The Souldiers all Amaz'd unto him flock,  
 Some spake their minde, and some upon him gaped;  
 But then to let them know he did not mock,  
 Discover'd plaine how narrowly he 'scaped:  
 In sad Conflict some tooke their latest groane,  
 Prais'd be his Fate he Emprour was alone.

This

24.

This Speech of his a little was distracted,  
To stop their mouths he double Largeſſe gave,  
Whereby they weigh not much what he had Acted,  
But many tooke ſuch ſtore as they would have;  
By this exploit he all in pieces tears  
The Treasure Father got in eighteen years.

25.

A Traytor new young *Geta* muſt be thought,  
In Temple thus this night he him ſecur'd,  
The Coine the Souldiers had their Leſſon taught,  
Of double Guards they *Antonine* aſſur'd;  
Through City then to th' Senate he makes way,  
Deſiring them to heare what he could ſay:

26.

I know Domeſtick Murther hath a Brute  
Whereby the Moſt ſuch Actors doe maligne,  
Though he that's vanquiſh'd doe receive the fruit  
Which muſt of Force be done to him condigne;  
And ſuch as are not Partiall and ſelf-will'd,  
Doe know 'tis better kill then to be kill'd.

*Antonine* to the  
Senat.

27.

Befides, if one to Cowardiſe be bent,  
And ſeeke by poyſon to Effect his mind,  
The other brave as proves by the Event,  
What elſe doth he but ſerve him in his kind;  
That he againſt me hath ſuch practice wrought,  
For you to know I have his ſervants brought.

28.

Their owne Confeſſions will the matter cleare,  
And when in Mothers ſight could not reſtraine,  
But he with more did put my life in feare,  
'Tis not deny'd I have him juſtly ſlaine:  
How others did like miſchiefs thus prevent,  
I can recite you many a Preſident.

P 2

First

29.

First founder of our City *Romulus*  
 His Brother quell'd, who his endeavours Jeer'd :  
*Nero* omit Brother to *Germanicus*,  
*Domitian* eke who Brother *Titus* fear'd ;  
 Phylosophick *Marcus* of deare account  
 Dispatched Son \* *Lucius* for his late Affront.

\* The report  
 was *Marcus*.  
 poyson'd him,  
 but *Vistor* says  
 none but lewd  
 persons believ-  
 ed it.

30.

So I my selfe by juster vindication  
 Prevented poyson from a deadly Foe,  
 Thank you the gods then for my preservation ;  
 Examine these if this be true or no,  
 To Govern so is my determination,  
 That quietly you may both come and goe :  
 As *Jupiter* doth other gods exceed,  
 So Emp'rour one amongst men is like decreed.

31.

This said in Rage on Fathers Friends he frown'd,  
 Then Senate left with pale and ghastly looke ;  
 To Court he hurries, where he threw to ground,  
 And Brothers Servants kill'd in ev'ry nooke :  
 For Officers, yea Infants he inquir'd,  
 Who out of Doors were thrown on heaps and fur'd.

32.

They had not  
 the Honour of  
 decent Funer-  
 rall,

Unhappy they that knew of *Get's* Affaires,  
 For all of them were put unto the Sword ;  
 Wrestlers, Char'oters, and all the players  
 That him delighted by their Deed or Word,  
 And wealthy Senators he also slew,  
 That Brothers Friends were either old or new.

33.

An Aged Woman *Commodus* his Sister,  
 Was Honour'd much as she was *Marcus* Daughter :  
 Because she with his Mother wept and kist her,  
 'Twas Crime enough to bring her to the Slaughter :  
 His Wife he kill'd that little harme had done,  
 With *Severus* and *Pertinax* his Son.



34.

*Lucilla's* \* Son and all the Royall Blood,  
With Presidents, he kill'd, and Procurators,  
And all that erst for Brother *Geta* stood,  
Or any waies his *Advocates* or *Fauctors*,  
Whole nights to kill and flay he did not flack,  
And buried eke the vestall Virgins quick.

\* *Commodus*  
Nephew.

35.

At Last, to make his Cruelty the more,  
At \* *Circen* sports where he him selfe was det,  
A deed was done like never was before,  
His Souldiers kill'd Spectators that were met:  
A Chari'ter some silently did coff,  
This was pretence enough to cut them off.

\* *Circen* Sports  
in honour of  
*Neptune*.

36.

Thus having play'd these mad and Div'lish prancks,  
Perhaps some guilt of Conscience might him sting,  
Upstarts as one expecting little Thanks,  
And to the North he now will have a fling,  
E're Long he did Arrive on *Ister* Banks,  
That better in a Rope deserv'd to swing:  
Sometimes at Race, sometime in Chasing Beast;  
Sometime in Judgment sate, but that the Least.

37.

This People he Accounts his fellow Souldiers,  
And for his Guard the strongest of them chole;  
Off Cast the *Roman* habit from his Shoulders,  
And Cassocks wore with Silver Trim'd like those;  
Then yellow Perwig of the *German* Fashion,  
Which made him deare to them in Estimation.

38.

Nor did the *Roman* Army this disgust,  
Because he was in gifts (to them) profuse,  
And often labour'd with them in the dust,  
And digg'd and delv'd in Trenches for their use;  
Then Bridges built and Stones and Morter carry,  
As if he were a Workman Manuary.

39.

He Junkets left and sparing was of Diet,  
 Contenting him with wooden Cups and Platters,  
 And fellow Souldier was to him more quiet  
 Than Princely State, he thought of no such matters :  
 A little Wheat he took to knead in Cakes  
 One to suffice, that in the Embers bakes.

40.

Thus for a while he quiet as a Loach  
 Disdained not with them to goe on Foot ;  
 He rarely rid on Horsback or in Coach,  
 His Arms he bore most willingly to boot ;  
 Th' Imperiall Standard also he would carry,  
 Which made the strongest Bearer often weary.

41.

Then of a Souldier good, and Brave Commander,  
 With Barb'rous people thus he got a Name ;  
 And marvell much it was to a By-Stander,  
 How such a timbred man should doe the same :  
 But of the rest if you delight to heare,  
 The Canto next will make it soone appear.

CANTO



CANTO XIV.

The ARGUMENT.

Anton' of Achilles and Alexander  
Will all the part, and offer at their shrine;  
To quarrell, Massacre and war doth wander,  
Great Parthia's Daughter serves him to combine  
More murder yet, he conspires and is slain,  
Macrinus chase, great fight, and Peace again.

I.

**M**alitious Pride why dost thou still outrage,  
By thy suggest was *Abel* kill'd of *Cain*;  
Some doe commit the like in ev'ry age,  
So *Geta* here by bloody Brother slain:  
Though we forget what formerly hath past,  
Yet blood for blood will vengeance have at last.

2.

Now *Antonine* from *Iser* Bank departs,  
And takes his journey downe along by *Thraes*;  
Great *Alexanders* Statues he imparts  
To them at *Rome*, and ev'ry other place:  
Pictures Intire Ridiculous were set,  
That you might see how both their Faces met.

3.

His habit chang'd from that of *Iser* Banks,  
With *Macedonian* Turban now hee's drest;  
His Sould'ers also stiled the *Phalanx*,  
And Captaines call'd as *Alexanders* erst:  
Then *Spartan* youths he sent for neere at hand,  
Them term'd *Laconical* and *Pitanite* Band.

\* Of the Cities

Se-

Securing Townes to *Pergum* next he went  
 Some Physick there to take, for health, his will is ;  
 To *Ilium* \* then his second march be bent,  
 To grace the Tomb of Fame, renown'd *Achilla*,  
 The which he deckt with Garlandstrim and Flowers,  
*Paris* lackt, for whom he pontes and Lowers.

*Vid. Hom. Ill.*  
 l. 23.

## 5.

Yet that he might this *Heroes* seem to Act,  
 This part he plaid amongst his other pranks ;  
 His *Pastus* dy'd, some said it was his Fact,  
 For which his Friends did give him little thanks :  
 Howe're the Corps to feed his fond desire,  
 Was brought to Fun'rall Pile and set on fire.

## 6.

An ancient  
 kind of Funerall.

Then Beasts he kill'd, a Violl to the same  
 Effusing Wines, and praying to the Winds ;  
 But People laugh when haire is thrown in flame,  
 Bush naturall was so thin he little finds :  
 Generals he *Scilla* and *Haniball* affected,  
 Whole Images and Statues he erected.

## 7.

Through *Asia* thus he minded these Affaires,  
 And then in state from *Ilium* he departs ;  
 Yet in his way to *Antioch* he repaires,  
 Whom they receive perhaps not with their hearts :  
 To *Alexandria* next he makes his Rhodes  
 Their *Heroes* to revere, but more their gods.

## 8.

\* A hundred  
 oxen.

There Sacrifices of whole \* Hecatombs  
 He order gave for him should be prepar'd ;  
 This hit the *Alexandrians* e're the Thumbs, &  
 Whose Cockbraines wilt not how the blow toward :  
 Yet joy they make and entertainment such,  
 For any Prince was never made so much.

Sweet

9.

Sweet Musick, Aromaticks and Perfumes,  
Light Torches, Gelsoms, Odours and Mask Roses,  
Arabian Spices, and the Richest Gums;  
The Emprour and his Army Round incloses,  
Who first to Sacrifice in Temple went,  
Then Incense makes and hundreds Oxen brent.

10.

Next offer'd he at *Alexander's* Shrine  
His Purple Robe, and Rings with Parrag Stones,  
His Belt, his Scarfe, and choicest Jewels fine,  
Then laid them all upon the Tombed bones:  
The People overjoy'd Feast day and night,  
But little dreame what Feast for them is dight.

11.

This was but Colour and his plausibility,  
For them to Massacre was his intent;  
At *Rome* he heard this Peoples intivility,  
How they for Brothers death to scoff were bent;  
And so their cutting quips and wonted jeering  
Of him and his, came often to his hearing.

12.

The jests of Open truth most keenly bite,  
And men resent them ever at the worst;  
This turn'd his fury into such despite,  
They now have cause to think themselves accurst:  
While they with Plaies and Sports doe squib and flash,  
Through dire revenge must ay endure the lash.

13.

The manner thus, when Festivall was over,  
As he had Trained some in *Phalanx* Order,  
Their gallant youths he wils them to discover  
Both of their owne and Regions that doe border;  
He *Macedon* and *Spartan* had before,  
Now *Alexandrian* should make one more.

Q

Re-



14.

Regarding late the Honour he had done  
 Unto their City, and their *Herods Tombe*,  
 They to this project were the sooner won,  
 So bring them (eies unto a Fall doome,  
 Submitting thus to be at his dispose,  
 Them all unarm'd, his Souldiers doe inclose.

15.

These Dullards then were taken in a Toile,  
 The Watch-word once dispers'd amongst the Rout,  
 With Havock great the Souldiers kill and spoile,  
 Some cut off Heads, some scatter limbs about,  
 To Murther young and old they doe not stick,  
 Some thrown in pits, and some they bury quick.

16.

Some Souldiers eke receive deserved hire,  
 For graped once with them of equall strength,  
 They hale and pull and wallow in the mire,  
 Then in one grave together lie at length,  
 The slaughter ended, round about the shore,  
 And *Nilus* mouth was dy'd in Purple gore.

17.

The Sirname *Parthians* he next Affects,  
 A Conquest much he covets in th' Orient,  
 Embassadors he sends with his respects,  
 Who tutor'd well upon this Errand went:  
 Our Prince, say they, had rather then his life,  
 The Daughter of your King to make his Wife.

18.

Embassage.

An Emp'reur he and eke an Emprours Son,  
 None therefore fit for him but such a Queen;  
 If once this Royall Intermatch were done,  
 And of the Barbarous people known and seen,  
 Impediment no more would then remain,  
 The World might Govern'd be her wist them twain.

The

19.

The Roman Foot excell'd in Sword and Pike,  
For number *Parthians* Archers, and for Skill  
In discipline, the World had not the like,  
With necessaries ready at their will;  
There may by this Affinity and Truce  
Both parts into one Monarchy reduce.

20.

Your Cities Odours yeeld, fine Silkes and Spice,  
The *Roman* Countries Minerals and Trades;  
In this division Merchants are not Nice,  
But traffick oft by Steakh, and Vessels Lades;  
If we conclude their practice will not reach,  
But intercourse be had without impeach.

21.

At first the *Parthians* like not this dispatch,  
Or can conceive it tendeth to their quiet,  
For *Romans* with *Barbarians* to match,  
Who Language differ, habit, and in diet;  
The *Roman* Prince may match among his Peers,  
And so was pleas'd this Noble King of theirs.

22.

But *Antonine* his Suit doth re-inforce  
With Ample Gifts and Solemn Protestation;  
Then some perswade it was the wisest course  
To give consent to this Solemnization:  
Whereat from Shouts the people did not cease,  
In Hope to have a sure and lasting Peace.

23.

*Antonine* Rivers pass, and makes ingress  
As free as if the Country was his owne;  
Who entertainment had of more and lesse,  
Which eke to King *Artabanus* was knowne:  
And he prepar'd as eagerly againe,  
To meet the Bridegrome in an open Plain.

Q 2

Crown'd

24.

Crown'd Altars Sacrifice with Odours Sweet,  
 And Flourey Chaplets, Vestures wrought with Gold,  
 With Pipe and Hute they doe this Gallant Greet,  
 Then Musick, Dance, and all the Mirth they could;  
 To this their sport he seem'd so much affected,  
 His Treachery was not by them suspected.

25.

But now they were together in a Rout,  
 Both Faith and Oath he sticks not to infringe;  
 For when his Souldiers compass them about,  
 Fall on, quoth he, we have them in a spring;  
 The tipled *Parthians* run as in a maze,  
 Then *Romans* kill and follow on a Chase.

26.

King *Artaban* was rescued by his Guard,  
 Some few with him had much ado to fly,  
 The rest of them were put unto the Sward,  
 Their Armes were off and Horses were not nigh;  
 The Bride might think this was ill-favour'd bedding,  
 Yet who doe Weapons bring unto a Wedding?

27.

When as this mighty Massacre was made,  
 The Souldiers rest from killing and from toile;  
 Yet cruell still according to their Trade,  
 They Cities burnt and bare away the spoile:  
 Thus *Antonine* departs from *Parthian* grounds,  
 And march'd along into the *Roman* Bounds.

28.

To Senate then, at *Rome*, he Message sent  
 (Who heard before of all the pranks he plaid-)  
 How he to them had vanquish'd th' Orient,  
 This to Agnise they seem'd well paid;  
 And though they knew him false in Word and Deed,  
 Triumphant Honours ne'r the less Decreed.

In

29.

In *Mesopotamia* he kept his Court,  
Where for a while himselfe he did Devote,  
To Combat Beasts with Races and like Sport,  
And there he meant to pay *Macrinus* Cōte :  
Two Gen'als then, *Audentius* for the War,  
*Macrinus* Law, and pleading at the Bar.

Two Generals  
*Audentius* and  
*Macrinus*.

30.

This Prince *Macrinus*, us'd to taunt and check,  
Averse to him in diet and Attire,  
As Coward faint he threats to break his neck,  
For service done this was ingratchfull Hire :  
But loe what hapt, Magicians he consults,  
And longs to know his end by their Results,

Conjuring.

31.

*Maternian* eke who Govern'd then at *Rome*,  
Had word to call the Wizards far and near,  
To know of them what death should him become,  
Or who it was he needed most to fear,  
If Spirits told, or he did so combine,  
He writes back word to looke unto *Macrine*.

32.

The Letters seal'd and sent away in Post,  
At Court arrive in their convenient Tide,  
Where *Antonine* was making mickle boast  
Of Chariot Race how gayly he could ride ;  
And being thus so earnest in his sport,  
He bids *Macrinus* see what they import.

33.

*Macrinus* with the Letters did retire,  
And lights on that which might him sore molest,  
You need not bid him throw it in the fire,  
Yet he acquaints the Emp'rour with the rest ;  
And doubting now he must not long respire,  
Before *Maternian* sent he thought it best  
To call a friend, to wit, \* *Centurion Martial*;  
Who had good cause to be a little Partiall.

Captaine of  
100 men.

Q 3.

For

34.

For Brothers losse whom *Antoni* caus'd to die  
 Without due form or process in the Law,  
 These two together plotted by and by  
 The Prince to kill, then doe themselves withdraw;  
 That of the crime they might not be suspected  
 Till it was done, which shortly was effected.

35.

De Luna.

See Mr Selden

de diu Syri.

At *Carra Antonine* from Palace went,  
 To visit once the Temple of the Moone;  
 In haile was *Martiall* by *Macrinus* sent,  
 Who thought it long till be this Deed had done,  
 For that no harm (as Church) the Prince did looke,  
 He private went and small Attendance tooke.

36.

And by the way he went aside to Esle,  
 For manners sake his Servants stood Aloof;  
 But *Martiall* Beck'ned, Hoe Sir, if you please,  
 I something have to say for your behoof:  
 Then ran so fast ere *Antoni* could mind,  
 He with his Dagger Stab'd him in behind.

37.

Though *Martiall* fled, he shortly had his Hire,  
 The German Horfe, that was the Princes Guard,  
 Pursu'd so fast they trod him in the mire,  
 Their Javelin points he had no skill to ward;  
 This Murder nois'd each one was of his keeping,  
*Macrinus* was the first that fell a weeping.

38.

And time it was last he should be suspected,  
 This Prince to Souldier fellow was and friend,  
 None else as yet but *Martiall* was detected,  
 They thought he tooke revenge for brothers end;  
*Macrinus* sent his Ashes, to be buried,  
 Unto his Mother that at *Antioch* tarried.

And



39.

And there for Childrens losse her selfe she flew,  
If not compell'd, as some would have it thought;  
Thus *Antonine* this end upon him drew,  
For Brothers death and Murders that he wrought:  
He once defunct, the Souldiers (in a muse)  
Bethink themselves whom Emp'rour they should chuse.

40.

For *Artaban* was marching hitherward  
To seeke revenge for breach of peace and Murther,  
*Andentius* therefore safely shall them Guard,  
If he be pleas'd they meane to seeke no further;  
But he replies (with Modesty) I cannot,  
You see, quoth he, my time is super-annate.

41.

The \* Tribunes then perswade to chuse *Macrinus*,  
Who after, you shall heare, with him combin'd;  
The Souldiers say the *Parthians* neer behind us,  
Wee will not now be obstinat inclin'd:  
King *Artaban* approach'd with mighty Band,  
*Macrinus* counsels thus him to withstand,

\* Collonels.

42.

For publike losse no marvell if we mourn,  
He was our Prince, yet Fellow did appeare;  
Though all of us to dust at length shall turne,  
Yet while wee live his Name to us is deare:  
But now we have perform'd the Funerall Rite,  
The present danger doth our care incite.

43.

The Barb'rous King is here with Eastern Power,  
Who have a quarrell good in their conceipt;  
They say we did their people all devoure,  
When they unarm'd did think of no deceit;  
And kill'd his kinsmen in unlucky houre,  
When entertainment they had made us neat:  
To skirmish light no leisure time will yield,  
But you must fight it out in open field,

This

44.

This breach of Oath, if true, is somewhat biting;  
 Our Prince, not we, ought answer for the Fact,  
 Which is already done by fatal limiting;  
 We *Romans* are, like *Romans* let us Act,  
 Then keep your Ranks to barr them of their Ends,  
 The *Roman* Empire now on you depends.

45.

The Barb'rous are unmarshall'd, wanting Art,  
 And like enough themselves to overthrow;  
 You disciplin'd in whole and ev'ry part,  
 And by your Order have the skill to know:  
 The Foot their Ranks, the Horsemen sure in Seat,  
 Whereby you shall your Enemies defeat.

46.

Like *Romans* charge as often you have done,  
 The Barb'rous people once again to quell,  
 That men may know your conquest was not won  
 Through fraud or breach of Faith, as they doe tell;  
 What matter is't how they excuse their harms,  
 So you prevaile by skill and Force of Arms.

47.

They feared the *Parthian* more than any Nation,  
 The Souldiers \* (in a streight) this Speech Allow'd,  
 And instant put themselves in Battell ray;  
 The Barb'rous folke with mighty Host and Proud  
 Advancing, were next morne by break of day:  
 As was their guise, they Invoke the Sun,  
 And then with Shouts upon the *Romans* run.

48.

The skilfull *Romans* did their Battels Range,  
 With Horfe and Darts *Moresco* flank'd each side;  
 The Frame of their \* Maniples with Intervals doe change,  
 To flat the Charge and 'bate th' Assaylants Pride;  
 Though they with Lance and Shot of Arrowes Gall,  
 Yet hand to hand they by the *Romans* tall.

But

49.

But yet ere long, with numbers overprest,  
The Romans make as if they would retire;  
Withall, they sharp and pointed Engins wrest,  
And hide in Sand the Barbo'rous Folk to cheat;  
Which made their Horles halt with grievous paine,  
Great store of men and Camels eke were slain.

50.

The first and second day they fiercely fought,  
As Victors both they to their Camps retire,  
The third, *Barbarians* to inclose them fought,  
As if they would them catch in net of Wire,  
Which *Romans* to prevent their Front dilate,  
Soskilfull are they both in this debate.

51.

Yet at the best to both was slaughter sore,  
And heads of Carcasses were seen to lie;  
*Macrinus* thinks their rage was so much more,  
To take revenge that *Antonine* might die:  
He saw to fight it out was their intent,  
Debating thus, with *Heralds* Letters sent.

52.

Which doe inform that *Antonine* was dead,  
For breach of Oath and League he had his hire,  
*Macrinus* chofen Emp'rour in his stead,  
To be at peace with them was his desire;  
And that they may be friends as heretofore,  
Their spoile and Captives he will all restore.

53.

The *Parthian* Lords doe each one take his Seat,  
To heare the Message that the *Romans* sent,  
And in the midst King *Artaban* the Great,  
Whom with the rest these Tydings doe content;  
The truth of *Anton's* Murther cool'd his heate,  
To take his spoyle and Captives now is bent:  
Then towards home he makes his next Approach,  
*Macrinus* likewise went to *Antioch*.

*The End of the Fourth Book.*

R

CANTO

## CANTO XV.

## THE ARGUMENT.

Macrinus writes the Senate him confirms,  
 He afterwards commits a foolish Error,  
 Then Mæla subtle Lady should be served,  
 Bassian called Antonine made Emprour;  
 Macrinus dies, pursu'd by Antonine,  
 And shortly after headless is Macrine.

Nothing but black Designs to murder still,  
 Wee know we have a dire and ghastly Foe;  
 The serpent old that wrought our former ill,  
 Doth yet persist to work our Thrall and wee:  
 Then let us pray to keep us from the power  
 Of Lyon fierce, that will his prey devour.

You heard how former Antonine had end,  
 Another of the Name will soone appeare;  
 Still sad revenge on Murder doth attend,  
 But to Macrinus Lend a while your care:  
 How he to Roman Senate did direct  
 His Letters sent, which speak to this effect:

Macrinus  
 Letter.

\* Or General  
 of the Army.

I count it needlesse many words to use;  
 You know if I my Office did neglect,  
 Or else in conversation was profluse,  
 When I was chose Prætorian\* Prefect;  
 To me and such the Prince himself commits,  
 And for your sakes I bare his frantick Fits.

When.

4.

When he through flatterers did you Tyranny  
And me of Lenity did often Tax,  
Resist I would not him in any wise,  
Lest he in ferall Choller worse should wax;  
The *Parthick* Warr that like was to under us,  
By perfect League I have confirmed to us.

5.

My Government shall cause no bloudy strife;  
Then of my Rise I hope you will approve;  
You ought to prize a good and vertuous life  
Fore Nobles that to help you never move.  
What's got by *Commodus* or *Antonine*,  
Or such as wholly to their Lusts incline?

*Quid gens sine  
mente?*

6.

From Fathers they derive their Rule and Right,  
But those on whom the Empire you conferr  
Will not abuse their Splendor or their might,  
Or scornfully the meaneer sort deter:  
Such as the Rule doe gain by moderate Actions,  
Most carefull are in all their great Transactions.

7.

Your Counsell and Assistance I will crave  
In all Affaires that may concern the State,  
Good *Marcus* Rule and *Pertinax* in grave  
Shall you restore in what you lost of late;  
More praise hath he that raiseth first his Fame,  
Then he that boasts the Race from whence he came.

8.

This Letter read, each one bestow'd his Vote;  
Imperiall Honours they to him decreed;  
Yet not so glad *Macrinus* was alloté,  
As *Antonine* had got deserved meed:  
For full account they make now he is dead,  
To scape the danger hanging o're their head.



Accusers false and such as were unjust;  
 If Servants or Informers so invent  
 Were all of them upon the Gallows truss,  
*Macrinus* for a year was so intent;  
 But Souldiers all disbanded or sent home  
 He should have caus'd, and then have gone to Rome.

Mis Error.

10.

Upon *Macrinus* there they call and cry,  
 But he at *Antioch* staid to trim his beard;  
 His Garb and Speech he us'd sparingly  
 As *Marcus* wont, which formerly you heard;  
 Yet in his manners he was nothing like him,  
 Which made both Souldiers and the rest dislike him.

11.

Austere the one and of a Temperate Diet,  
 But he to Masques and Revels was inclin'd;  
 With Jewels deckt of vaine excess and Rier,  
 Effeminate, much like to Women kind;  
 Of Paralell in him there is no signe  
 With *Marcus* Sage, or Warlike *Antonine*.

12.

The Souldiers eke were pinch'd with courser fare;  
 While he in Silks and Cates did much abound;  
 Now for his Rule they doe no longer care,  
 His Fate is neer and Fortune turneth round;  
 To leave his charge there can be no Evasion,  
 And *Mesa* subtle Lady gives Occasion,

13.

\* Born in the  
 City *Emisa*.  
 See M. Sands  
 description  
 Journal, p. 207

From Country of *Rhintria* came this Conc,  
 That Long in Roman Court had led her Life,  
 To Empresse *Julia* (Sister she alone)  
*Antonin's* Mother, and *Savina's* Wife;  
 One dead, the other kill'd, she went from Rome  
 With all her goods *Macrinus* sent her home.

14.

In flourishing Estate she got much Wealth,  
And now in age doth back againe return;  
Two Sons there were as she sayes, got by Realth,  
Which to her Daughters twain were also born;  
They Striplings were as yet, notable men;  
*Bassian* fourteen and *Alexander* ten.

15.

*Phanitian* built an Altar to the Sun,  
Adorn'd with Silver, Gold and precious Stones,  
To worship which they oft devoutly run,  
These two young men were Priestlings both at once;  
This god no Image had but Masse Stone,  
At bottom round, at top sharp like a \* Conc.

\* Spive.  
See M. Selden  
de Dia Syris.  
Sint. c. 1.

16.

This Stone of Coleur black had shining spots,  
And Figures some, not made by humane Art,  
But fell from Heaven, it seems they are such sots;  
In Priestly Office *Bassian* plaid his part,  
His upper Coats Imbroid' red were with Gold,  
A Crowne upon his head you might behold.

17.

His under Coats were also tissued over,  
A comely youth withall, of rare Aspect,  
Howe're a Priek he seem'd like a Lover,  
His Garb and Beauty all of them Affect;  
With Pipe and Flute full often here he vapors,  
And round about the Altar frisks and Capers.

18.

The Souldiers lay the City then before,  
To Guard the Frontiers of *Phanitian* Bounds,  
And they this Temple visit more and more,  
To see this stripling Dance his Priestly Rounds;  
Devotion part, but more his gesture call'd 'em,  
Then to his Mother *Mesa* they extoll'd him.

R 3

IF

19.

If that be true she told to them or not,  
 Uncertaine is to some and in dispute;  
 She said how *Anonius* this youth begot,  
 Although another Father bore report,  
 That to her Daughters he did oft resort  
 When with her sister she liv'd long at Court.

20.

And more she said, that she had Treasure great,  
 Which she would give the Army, for consent  
 To place her Nephewes in the Princely Seat;  
 This Brute was nois'd and 'mongst their fellows went,  
 Who say, if she will feather so their Nests,  
 Both she and hers shall be their welcome guests.

21.

To th' Camp away she hies in dark of Night,  
 Her Children, Friends, her Goods, with Bag and Baggage,  
 Before the Towne was privy to her flight,  
 Some vagrant Troops conducted had her carriage;  
 Young *Bassian* was Proclaim'd at easie rate,  
 And him they cloath in Purple Robe of State.

22.

With these their gods they brought provision store,  
 Lest they perhaps be straiten'd with a Siege,  
*Macrinus* at *Antioch*, as you heard before,  
 Will not be pleas'd they have another Liege;  
 Yet hope they have his Soldiers will combine,  
 When as they know the Son of *Anonius*.

23.

For they indeed are weary of the late,  
 The grudge they have *Macrinus* is not New,  
 And now they hope to have good Host of Cash,  
 They soone perswade themselves rather all is true  
*Macrinus* scorns the boy, the Soldiers blame,  
 And Capitaine lends these Relicks new to name.

When

24.

When *Julian* that commanded his in Chiefe  
Came neer the City Approaching to the Walls,  
They mount aloft (to shew their mind in briefe)  
On Turret tops, and boldly to him Cals:  
Loe here the youth that is our Emptours Son,  
Come joyn with us or else you are undone.

25.

They shew withall their purses full of Chink,  
A bait no doubt *Macrinus* to betray,  
Howe're it causeth them without to think  
That all was true they heard their fellows say;  
The youth they sweare is like their Emptour dead,  
So all agree and cut off *Julians* Head,

26.

The which they send for token to *Macrinus*:  
The Gates are ope their fellows let them in,  
And now they cry, he shall no longer blind us,  
For all his threats we care not once a pin;  
We all together can withstand a Siege,  
And fight a Battell for our Sovereigne Liege.

27.

*Macrinus* then intends to force their Camp,  
Which they prevent by Marching to the Field;  
There furiously they 'gan to rage and Ramp,  
Resolv'd to fight, and rather die then yield,  
But all was well, for Fortune leaves *Macrinus*,  
His Souldiers fly and go to *Antonine*.

28.

And now he finds himselfe in desperate Case,  
Yet while his middle Battell firmly stood,  
His Purple Coat he 'gins for to Unlace,  
And flies himselfe with such as he thought good;  
Disguised thus away by stealth he went  
And hid himselfe, misfortune to prevent.

Before

29.

Before they knew of this his sudden flight,  
 His Guard that was the old *Prætorian* Band,  
 Did stand awhile and bravely for him fight,  
 Supposing he himselfe was neere at hand:  
 But when no further Newes of him they heare,  
 They all were struck into a Panick feare.

30.

But yet shon of Hope they better sped,  
 The Renegades that came to *Antonine*  
 Assurance gave how that *Macrinus* fled,  
 Then he proclaimes the Souldiers all are mine;  
 But Chiefe to chiefe he sencerly present word,  
 They shall repaire to be of his own Guard.

31.

They to the Heralds credit gave and yeild,  
 Forthwith he sends *Macrinus* to pursue,  
 At \* *Chalcedon* he thought his nest to build,  
 But him the Souldiers overtooke and slew;  
 Some said in hast he meant to go to *Rome*,  
 The Winds were crosse and brought him to his dome.

\* A Sea-Town  
 in view of  
 Constantinople.

32.

For there at first he should have rendezv'd,  
 So having neither Fortune or Forêcast,  
 The Souldiers thus his Lenity abus'd,  
 And brought him to this fearfull end at last;  
 With him his Son young *Cæsar Didumene*  
 Was taken there, and with his Father slain.

CANTO





CANTO XVI.

The ARGUMENT.

*Young Anton's Freaks and cruelties we tell,  
He freedom takes to violate a Nun,  
Yes Frames excuse as if he had done well,  
Then Marriage makes between the Magn and Sun;  
His god Inbrowes then plaies and Revels vaine,  
Next he himself is by his Souldiers slain.*

1.

**M***Acvinus* here of whom we late did treat,  
Not bloody was or caus'd the Peoples Te'res;  
His fault was that he kept himself too near,  
Consulting not among the *Roman* Peeres:  
A Crime much short to that of *Antonine*,  
What caus'd like Fate we leave to power Divine.

2.

*Antonine* Emp'rour th' Army doe salute,  
His Friends and Grandam guide the East Affaires;  
His years unripe such matters to dispute,  
Then straight for *Rome* his Journey he prepares:  
Old *Mesa* thinks at *Rome* to spend her yeares,  
Though Commons are not glad nor yet the Peeres.

3.

At *Nisomede* he Winters by the way,  
And fals to worshipping his Country Deity,  
Whose Priest he was Attir'd in Rich Array,  
Then Antique Dance which shew'd but little Piety;  
Gold, Purple, Tissue Embroid'ed on his Gown,  
He Crownets weares much like a *Persian* Crown.

S

Pha-

4.

*Phœnician Garb*, or like the *Modes* he w'd,  
 The *Greek* and *Roman* Habit was too mean,  
 But *Masa* thinks his Honour he Abuse,  
 And by perswasion seeks him off to weane;  
 But he of *Shalms* and *Flutes* provideth a noise,  
 Delights in *Gambols* and his Priestly Toyes.

5.

These pranks She said were Bar'rous and Exotick,  
 The Senate would not like this Garish Dresse,  
 You dote quoth he, your eyes are in your Pocket:  
 I am their Prince and will be for the less;  
 Then such Fantasticks as himself devise,  
 To try how *Romans* would approve their guise.

6.

His Picture Large and of his god the Image,  
 Bedeckt in Pontificals goes to *Rome*,  
 And such he bids as are of Noble Linage,  
 With all their Superficials thither come;  
 Then uppermost o're *Victory* to place it,  
 That Sacrificers and the rest may grace it.

7.

This god by him was termed *Heliogabalus*,  
 And when he enter'd *Rome* with all his Train,  
 Report which some before Esteemed Fabulous,  
 Was to spectators now discern'd plaine;  
 He Largesse gives as was the Emprours guise,  
 Exhibits shewes, and Fencers play their Prize.

8.

A stately Temple to his god he builds,  
 With Altars store for Sacrifices meet,\*  
 Then hundreds Sheep and Oxen of the Fields  
 He kills, and burning heapes of Odours Sweet,  
 With Rundlets of the daintiest Wine betwixt,  
 The blood ran through the Temple intermixt.

Then

9.

Then round about the Altars falls a skipping,  
To Instruments consorted in their kind,  
With many of his country Women Tripping;  
Some\* side, some leap before, and some behind,  
The Noble Knightly Orders Stand at gaze,  
While Entrails and the Aromatics blaze.

\* By these dances the Gentiles intimate that every part of their Body must be employed to serve their gods.

10.

Not Persons meane but by the Captaines Chiefe,  
On Golden Plates these Spiceries are borne,  
And Officers of State wore to their grieve  
Phancian hanging sleeves which they doe scorne,  
Like Syrian\* seats, with linnen Shooes in Brieft,  
Yet all this Harvest yields but little Corne:  
Though such as in these mysteries be placed,  
He counts with chiefest Honour to have graced;

\* Prophets,

11.

Amongst this geere he plaies a tragick prize,  
For at this Mirth he heares how some doe scoff;  
So puts to death some Noble rich and Wife,  
Which made the rest to get them further off:  
Augusta Princely Lady takes to Wife,  
Of Honours Strips, then turns to private life.

12.

And after this to be in Love pretending,  
A Vestall Virgin tooke from Sacred Cell  
Against the Law, to marry her intending,  
The People thought he counsell had from Hell;  
When Senate blam'd this Sacrilegious Act,  
He Letters writ and answer'd thus the Fact:

13.

This is I think, queth he, no mortall sin,  
I was Intrall'd by Magick of her beauty;  
A Priest that hath no haire upon his Chin,  
To wed a priestesse is no more then duty:  
This he will have to be a sacred match,  
Yet soone he gave this second Wife dispatch.

14.

A third he tooke of *Commodus* Alliance,  
Such pranks as these were plaid by our young *Anton*,  
But yet to give these Holy Rites defiance,  
He shew'd himselfe more then a common *VVanton*,  
And now these Matches were with him so rife,  
His Country god must also have a *VVife*.

15.

They *Pallas* Image then produce with Joy,  
Which *Romans* kept in Secret Veneration,  
And never seen since it was brought from Troy,  
Till Temple burnt with fiery Exhalation.  
This goddesse to his Chamber brought with Solace,  
He marries to his god within the Palace.

16.

Yet shortly after he forbids the banes,  
For that she was too Martiall clad in Arms;  
*Urania* next with in his mind remanes,  
To worship her we now must goe in Swarms.  
Ador'd she was amongst the *Carthaginians*,  
Queen *Dido* chiefe that came of the *Phenicians*.

17.

This Image at such time she did Erect,  
When *Carthage* built by cutting of an Oxe Hide:  
A name she had by *Africans* select  
Of hers; the \* Moone she called was, beside  
Quoth he; that we may have the fairest Weather,  
The Sun and Moone we marry will together.

18.

A Braver Match was never till this hower,  
From Temple then they Gold and Silver bring:  
With her to give unto his god for Dower,  
Who said it was a very seemely thing:  
Together then they brought them at his Bidding,  
With Feasts and Joy prepared for the Wedding.

He.

\* Cut into  
Thongs, com-  
pact as much  
ground as con-  
tain'd the  
City.

\* Queen of  
Syria, *vid. Seld.*

19.

He did in Suburbs mighty Temple reare,  
Had shew'd by night, with Stage-plates Beasts and Races,  
There brought his god from City once a year;  
And in Caroch with Gems Adorn'd his places;  
Six Steeds in Rich Caparisons doth fetter,  
And backward goes himselfe to guide the better.

20.

The way was strew'd with Filings thick of Gold,  
His Guard supporting him on every side,  
The People run with Torches to behold,  
Presenting Flowers and Garlands to the Bride;  
His god was shrin'd with all the Pomp he could,  
Though such devices men may well deride:  
The Images of all the gods were carried,  
With Sumptuous gifts the couple thus were Married;

21.

By gifts, I meane, the Temples Rich Donaries,  
Imperiall Robes, with Plate and Jewels etc;  
The Nobles, Gentry, Souldiers in quandaries,  
Yet at these sports they must not be to lecke;  
To Turret tops he fetches more Vagaries,  
Thence Largeffe throwes, such never was the lecke:  
Apparell \* Rich; Gold, Silver, Linnen fine,  
All sorts of tame Beasts gave, excepting Swine,

\* This was  
done by Tic-  
quets for the  
Receipt.

22.

Which he and all *Phenicians* doe Abhorre:  
The Throng was such that some to death weretrod;  
Some kill'd with Pikes, more then they looked for;  
Such Fattall Feast befell his New-come god;  
VVith many more of these Unprinely Pranks,  
Though Grandam *Masa* gave him little thanks.

23.

She fear'd ere long the Souldiers would disgust,  
And if his folly brought him to his end,  
She home againe to pack commanded must  
In private life her latter daies to spend;  
She praies that he (which thus Altray did wander)  
VVould *Cesar* make his Couzen *Alexander*.



# Herodians Imperiall History.

24.

Masa to Antonine.

He was her Grandchild by her youngest Daughter,  
Then this into him finely she instills,  
That since he was a Priest and serv'd the Altar,  
The gods require him to performe their VVile,  
Their Offices and Ongies to prepare;  
And Viceroy make to free from Humane care.

25.

But yet no stranger he should substitute,  
His Couzen German sit, so neer Ally'd,  
Then neither Office would be destitute,  
But both the Governments might be supply'd;  
If this he granted through his Princely Favour,  
Both he and she would doe their best Endeavour.

26.

\*Sama and Mamma.

This will appeale the Ghost of Antonine,  
To see that you his Sons so well agree,  
He got you both on Daughters \* two of mine,  
This is a course as fit as fit may be;  
Thus did this Beldam giddy Anton flatter,  
And of her Daughters lightnesse makes no matter.

27.

For this she did the Souldiers to Allure,  
Then Caesar was he made by Antonine,  
And Consultke which Senate doe Assure,  
But here their VVits did certainly decline;  
No more but foure years 'twixt their Ages run,  
Yet t'one must Father be, and t'other Son.

28.

VVhom he in all his Rives did seeke to Traine,  
Mamma Mother was of other mind;  
These whimsy Frenzies she doth much dildaine,  
And sends for Tutors of the liberall kind;  
Such gave the rooke to weane him from this Anick,  
That he might sober prove and not a Frankick.

Yet

29.

Yet \* wrastling sometime as an Active Sport,  
She will permit him for his Recreation,  
But most unto his Tutors must Resort,  
To *Antonine* a more Pedantick Fashion;  
VVho now reports what he before hath done,  
Because he fees they meant to spoile his Son.

\* Princely  
Exercise.

30.

For which some of his Tutors roundly Traff,  
And in their Roomes he Revellers promoted;  
Unprincely sports he us'd to serve his Lust,  
All men perceive that now he plainly doted,  
Chiefe Offices of State disposed must  
To such as for their Lewdness were denoted;  
Fidlers, Daners, Jesters, Chariot-drivers,  
Debauched Ruffins were his State Contrivers.

31.

This was a mad and drunken distribution,  
Besides his Gewgawes and his Garish Dresset,  
VVhich made the Souldiers set their Resolution,  
Not to regard his garbe or Silken Traffes;  
In *Alexander* there was lesse Privation,  
To whom his Mother gave good Education.

32.

And now 'twas time to see how matters went,  
His Mother heeds, and to his businesse looks,  
She would not let him eat what *Anton*<sup>s</sup> sent,  
But duely minds his Butlers and his Cooks;  
For that disease she underooke the Cure,  
And money gave the Souldiers to Assure.

33.

Now *Antonine* intends to kill them both,  
The Mother and his new Adopted Son,  
VVhich Grandam \* *Mesa* would be very loth,  
Too blame am I, quoth she, if this be done;  
She knew of all his Plots as well as may be,  
And was withall a very subtle Lady.

\* A politike  
Lady.

Be-

34.

Because his projects still he did prevent,  
His Son no longer *Caesar* is allured,  
But when the Souldiers heard of his intent,  
No force say they that we will have disputed:  
With bitter Threats they gin to fret and Stamp,  
Retraîne his Guards and lockt them in the Camp.

35.

Young *Caesar* they demand and him will see,  
This Startles *Antonia*, makes him take *Caroch*,  
Adorn'd with Gems as rich as rich might be,  
Then to the Camp his Son and he Approach;  
Their Gates they ope with seeming merry cheer,  
Conducting them unto the Temple there.

36.

That night they had their Lodgings both prepar'd,  
Prince *Caesar* yet the Army best Applaudes;  
When *Antonine* saw how this matter far'd,  
His time it was to lay aside his Gaudes:  
The Chiefe of them he had in most suspition,  
He executes as Authors of Sedition.

37.

The Souldiers meane to take this just occasion  
To help their Fellowes in this dangerous case;  
Now *Anton's* Fautors die without Evasion,  
His Rimers, Dancers, and his Juglers base;  
Not so content, their fury so extreme is,  
They kill him selfe and eke his Mother *Samis*.

38.

Their Carcasses the people hale and takes,  
Enough to make a kind heart shake and shiver,  
And them they threw into the publicke Jakes,  
Which voided are into the *Tyber* River;  
Then that their young Prince might not rove at Random,  
They him commit to's Mother and his Grandam.

The End of the Fifth Book.

I have thought good to give you here  
the Character or Elogy of this last  
*Antonine*, taken out of the best Au-  
thors.

**H**IS Apparell was extreame brave and Gor-  
geous: yet he never wore one Garment twice.  
His Shooes were embellisht with Diamonds,  
and Orientall Pearles of the most Caracts. His Seats  
were strewed with Muske and Amber. His Beds  
were covered with Cloth of Gold Tissued on Purple, and  
embossed with Gems of inestimable Value. His Way  
was strewed with filings of Gold and Silver. His Vessels,  
even of basest use, were of Obryze Gold. His  
Lamps burned with pretious Balmes and Gums of India  
and Arabia. His Fish-ponds were filled with Rose-  
water. His Ships in his Theatricall Sea fights, floa-  
ted in Rivers of Wine. His Barhes most magnificent-  
ly built, when he had once used them, were still plucks  
downe; and new built. His Plate, of refined Masseie  
Gold; but never served twice to his Table. His Rings  
and Jewels infinitely Rich; yet never worne twice.  
His Concubines numberlesse, but never laine with  
twice. Every Supper in his Court cost 1000  
pounds sterling. When he lay neere to the Sea, he would  
eat no fish: when he was farthest in the Continent, he  
would eat no Flesh. Whole Meales were furnisht with  
Tongues of singing Birds, and Braines of rarest Crea-  
tures. All Europe, Asia, and Africk, with the  
Ilands adjacent; in a word, the Globe of Earth and Sea  
(whereof he was LORD PARAMOUNT) was

not able to fill this GVLPH. In his Progress, he was attended by 600 Chariots fraught with Cantabrians, Cotanites, and Paudars: for whom, he built a Seraglio in his Court; where himselfe (in the habit of a Courtizen) used to make solemn Speeches to them, terming them, his Brave Fellow-Souldiers and Companions in Arms: [What gallant Instructions he gave them I forbear to mention] He caused to be gathered in Rome \*four thousand Weight of Spiders, four thousand Allice, and a thousand Polcats; which he exhibited to the Roman Peeres and People, in a publike Shew and Solemnity, professing, that now he perfectly understood how mighty a Ciry Rome was. Lastly, [to omit other more strange Praukes] he summoned a \*Parliament of Women, to consult about Tires, Fashions, Dresses, Tinctures, and the like Weighty and Important Affairs.

\* Vid. Lippum  
de magnitudine  
Romana.

\* Senarum.

The





## The Sixth Book.

## CANTO XVII.

## THE ARGUMENT.

*Prince Alexander next Reforms the State,  
Mæsa deified, Persians them Invade,  
The Roman Letters they despise and Hate,  
A Muster over Italy is made;  
Alexander against the Persian goes,  
And sends Embassy to his Sturdy Foës.*

I.

**Y**OU see the end of Luxury and Riot,  
What means this flesh and blood so to Rebel?  
How happy is the poore mans rest and quiet,  
That doth within his homely Cottage dwell!  
Far better be a Beast or Brutish Swine,  
Then live and die the death of *Antonine*.

2.

This end had *Antonine* and his Adhærents,  
Then were (for managing of State-Affaires)  
*Mæsa* and *Mamma* created Regents,  
Who straight the Common-wealth amisse Repaires;  
Sixteen were chosen of the Ancient Peers,  
Remarkable for Wisdome and for yeares.

3.

This Government was pleasing unto all,  
Their gods remov'd of late they reinvest,  
For *Antonines* they make accompt but small,  
Though he and they so garishly were drest;  
His scoundrels were all of them disgrace'd,  
And men of Honour in their roomes were plac'd,

\* Skillfull in  
both parts of  
War, Tacick  
and Strata-  
gematick.

4.

\* At which they used a Peacock for a woman, as an Eagle for a man, See the fourth Book of this history.

The Empire stat'd thus, old *Masa* died,  
All solemn Rites unto her Hearse were done;  
For like an Emperesse she was \* Deified,  
*Mamma* left sole Guardian to her Son:  
And now for Rule he was of decent Age,  
She sought unruly passions to Allwage:

5.

Which happens oft to Natures that are best  
When *Parasites* have got the upper hands :  
To stir her selfe she therefore did not rest,  
Till she from Court did all of them disband ;  
She pray'd him in debates to end the Strife,  
Which he observ'd and led a Princely Life.

6.

His Elogy.

In fourteen yeares his Empire had no stain,  
None di'd without due proceſſe in the Law ;  
Since *Marcus* time there was not such a Raigne,  
For Love they him Revered more then Awe :  
His Mother though heap'd Coine, as she pretended :  
To give his Souldiers, which he not commended.

7.

Their goods she spoyl'd he thought on him reflected ;  
And when he had obtain'd a Noble Wife,  
The Lady was by her too much neglected,  
And forc'd from Court to lead a quiet life :  
As Emperesse she alone will take upon her,  
Maligning much at this her Daughters Honour.

8.

Her Sire she kill'd o're come with Passion blind,  
Because he spake what did not her content :  
The Lady into *Asick* was confin'd,  
All which was done without the Sons content ;  
Though duty binds, yet herein was his Error,  
He gave her too much sway to others Terror.

Exa

9.

Excepting this he rul'd without offence;  
Now Posts in hast from Syria hither ran,  
And brought such newes as quickly call'd him hence,  
The Persian King had kill'd great Artaban;

And worse newes they added to the Story,  
His Troops he march'd in Roman Territory.

\* Wore a double Diadem.

10.

In Mesopotamia he his Standard Reares,  
And on he comes as greedy as a Wolfe,  
By all his gods he most devoutly Swears  
The Country's his to the Propontick gulfe;  
The Persians Right which they derive from Cyrus,  
Till Alexander overthrew Darius.

11.

Whosoever saith against he counts a Toy,  
The Countries of Jonia and Cary  
Was Govern'd by a Persian Viceroy,  
Which he will have or else himselfe will die:  
What heretofore was under their command,  
He counts his Honour, and will that demand.

12.

This dismall newes when Alexander heard,  
Because in peace his youth was ever train'd,  
No marvell if they made him much afraid,  
He Counsell craves how this might be restrain'd;  
Who soone resolves, they will without neglect  
Embassage send, which spake to this Effect.

13.

You ought, say they, to keep within your Bounds,  
And not to stirr new Tumalts, or this Warr;  
For if you doe approach the Roman grounds,  
Our Souldiers will your enterprise debarr;  
When you perceive what praise to them redounds,  
You then will wish you had not come so farr:  
He minds them oft what those before him wan,  
Augustus, Lucius, Severo, and Trojan.

T. 3.

They

14.

They thought that this would be a cooling Card,  
 But when this Briefe was to the *Persian* born,  
 They make returne as yet they were not fear'd,  
 And flatly doe their challenge hold in scorn:  
 They meant to fight and not content in Words,  
 And so Assault the Guards upon the Fords:

15.

With spoile of booty & of their successe,  
 Their Empire now they doubt not to enlarge;  
 And *Artaxerxes* thought himself no lesse,  
 Who was the first that durst the *Parthians* charge,  
 To get again what formerly was Lost,  
 When *Alexander* foyle'd *Darius* Host:

16.

These Countries of the East were dealt in Shares  
 By those that next the Conquerour succeed,  
 Till that they spoyle'd themselves by civill Warrs,  
 Then *Parthian Asace* did subtilly proceed:  
 Revolt he plott'd by the *Macedonians*,  
 Who Crown'd him King, and eke the next *Barbarians*.

17.

These Countries got he left unto his heires,  
 With other moe, he next to *Parthia* wan,  
 Where he and his did flourish many yeares,  
 Till *Artaxerxes* kill'd great *Artaban*,  
 Who now will them unite to *Persian* Crown,  
 And eke advance to pull the *Romans* down.

18.

With this to stirr begins the *Roman* Prince,  
 His Captaines and his Honour doth Invite,  
 Best men he Masters saw in each Province,  
 That these inslaving *Persians* he may smite:  
 And since these *Barbarous* folk will not Atone,  
 His Souldiers call and speaks thus from his Throne:

Brave

19.

Brave Fellow soldiers now I with you could  
Speak my Applause and likewise your content;  
I know Sweet Peace is better bought then sold;  
But since our Fees to Prejudice are bent,  
And us to harm doe shew themselves despitfull,  
What we perform we ought to count delightfull.

Alexanders  
speech.

20.

Who doth the wrong deserveth little grace,  
Nor who repels deserveth to be hated;  
The Person King stept in his Sovereigns place,  
And Traitorously the Kingdome hath Translated;  
So in despite of our Majestick Power,  
Our Coasts and Countries he presumes to scower.

21.

By gentle Letters first we faire intreat,  
From claiming others Right he would desist;  
But he to fight and Challenge growes in heat,  
Insatiate is and will doe what he list:  
To break the Peace it was not your desires,  
Yet let him know you'll fight when need requires.

22.

You Veterans that such Famous Battels won  
By conduct of SEVERUS and my Sire,  
Still let them see your Courage is not done;  
You younger sort that Honour doe Aspire,  
Let former quiet breed no alteration,  
But of your Valour make full demonstration.

23.

The Barb'rous folk are fierce to them that shrink,  
But will not stand when Battell once is set;  
When you doe thoroughly charge away they sink,  
And think it well when they some booty get:  
If we our Order keep (with little pain)  
Wee shall them quell, and safe return again.

This



24.

This said, with shouts the Souldiers Joy Expresse,  
 To th' Senate eke he spake to like Effect,  
 And then Commands for Journey to Adresse  
 That they the *Perfians* sooner may Correct;  
 The Rites perform'd according to their guise,  
 Both he and *Romans* part with wat'ry eyes.

25.

His Rule so gentle was they love him deare,  
 As also that amongst them he was bred;  
 To *Ilyrian* Nations straight he doth appear,  
 Great Forces rais'd he thence to *Antioch* led,  
 Once there, he makes all Warlike Preparations,  
 His Souldiers Training in a Martiall Fashion.

26.

By Treaty once againe he offers Peace,  
 He thinks his presence may periwade or fear,  
 The Barbroas Prince will not his claim surcease,  
 But sends four hundred of the tallest there,  
 Like Heralds clad in rich and brave attire,  
 His men to daunt and cause them back retire.

27.

They Message had, how that King *Artaxerx*  
 Commands them \* *Asia* and *Syria* to refrain,  
 Or else be sure he will them sore perplex,  
 Till *Jonas* and *Chus* he regaine.  
 For what divides *Egean* and *Pontick* gulf,  
 Theres none shall rule except it be himself.

28.

This errand crosse to *Romans* Princes mind,  
 He bids these men shall seized be and stript;  
 Their dwellings into *Phrygia* were assignd,  
 And narrowly they leav'd from being whipt:  
 Yet banishment from home enough he thought,  
 Their fault no more then Sovereign Message brought.

This

29.  
This done he meanest invade the Barb'rous Fee,  
Though some of *Egypt Syria* did embroyle;  
Yet that with skill he sal'd without a blow,  
And tooke a course the rest might not recolle:  
His Army now is equall to *Barbarians*,  
Which he divideth into three Battalians.

30.  
One Northward march'd through Confin'es of *Armenia*,  
Who seem'd to be the Romans Reddy Friends,  
That way he purposeth to enter *Media*,  
The next where \* Rivers meet, yet of their ends  
Your expectation must a while prorogue,  
Till we can tell you where they disemboque.

*Euphrates and  
Tygh.*

31.  
The third and best he tooke himselfe to lead;  
Thus severall wayes the *Persians* they invade,  
Not feed men (as the *Romans*) but in stead  
They goe to Warrs with men of every Trade,  
And Women oft are Must' red on the Plaine,  
Who booty get, then to their house againe.

32.  
Not us'd to Camps or train'd in Marshall skill,  
So *Romans* meane to take them unprovided,  
And *Alexander* thinks to work his will  
On them that have his Embassage decided;  
But what event befell to either State,  
The Canto next ensuing will relate.

u

CANTO

Book XVIII

The ARGUMENT.

Of Archery high Hero and Roman foote  
Alexander great and glorious King,  
German Rebels, and the aldi keep awhile  
Describe mee about the Empyren Maximine,  
This journey puts the Romans to much paine,  
Prince Alexander by Scythians slain.

1.

If true or no *Mamma* was unchast,  
Uncertain is, but so it was proclaim'd  
To make her Son a King she was in hast  
Too many have at such Ambition Aind  
Our gain by fraud doth alwaies turn to losse,  
So wee as they come home by weeping-crosse.

Sentence.

2.

The *Persians* are esteem'd as Archers good  
In Warr, or when they lay at home to rest;  
If so, it is a meanes to get their food  
With Bow and Shaft they tell some wilde Beasts  
Though *Alexander* plans were deep and wide  
Yet Fortune favour'd not his Enterprize.

3.

The foremost Army through *Armenia* went,  
So clambering o're each Mountaine craggy top,  
To burn and pillage *Media* they are lent,  
And *Persian* King their Passage seeks to stop;  
The steepy Hills secure the Roman Foot,  
On *Persian* Horle to serve it was no boot.

In

4.

In *Parthia* The second Army enters,  
Which to the *Persian* King was a double Newes;  
If this be got for *Persia* next he ventures,  
Another purpose therefore he pursues:  
Some Force he left last *Media* should be left;  
Then into th' East he goes with mighty Host.

First *Roman* Army doe their March retard,  
For that the Barbarous folk did not proceed;  
They thought their Prince advanced with the third  
In th' middle part as erst it was agreed:  
There also was a rendezvous Assign'd  
To keep the prey and Pris'ners that they find.

6.

But loe a hard disaster here befell,  
He neither goes himself or Army sent;  
Whether it were he Lov'd himself too well,  
Or that his Mother fond, crost his intent,  
To keep him still at home her wit she bends,  
Which brought them both unto their dismal ends.

7.

The Army that the Barbarous Country entred,  
Through want of his reserve were all defeated;  
But for the hope of that they had not ventred,  
By too much confidence thus being cheated:  
The *Persians* run upon them unawares,  
And they like birds were taken in a snare.

8.

They were too few so many to repell,  
To stand upon their Guard they now contrive,  
And think they have themselves acquitted well,  
If so they may but keep themselves alive;  
Their Targets joyn'd while cloud of Arrows fell,  
But compass round like Bees within a Hive,  
Receiving grievous Wounds and deadly paine,  
With brave resistance, every man was slain.

U 2

This

9.

This to the *Romans* was a heavy cross,  
Of Better men remaineth no Record;  
Young *Alexander* much laments the losse;  
And Souldiers tax him deep for breach of Word;  
The *Persian* putt doth beare aloft his Crest,  
But \* he with griefe and Sicknesse is oppress.

\* Alexander.

10.

Heat of the Climate he could no longer brook,  
Nor yet *Libyans* bred in milder aire,  
Them and the rest along with him he tooke,  
Then unto *Antioch* maketh his repaire;  
For better Fortune now he must not looke,  
Both he and those remain'd were in despair;  
His Army perisht thus that was three fold,  
With Sword and sicknesse or the Mountaines cold.

11.

To *Antioch* come fresh Fountaines, cooler aire,  
In better state of health did him restore,  
His credit lost he Labour'd to repaire,  
To Souldiers left of Coyne he gave great store;  
This was he knew the way to get him praise,  
And chiefest help an Army new to raise.

*Pilula aurea*  
best Physick  
for souldiers.

12.

For so he must if *Persians* them pursue,  
But newes he heares their King his men dismiss;  
Though his were slain it also was as true,  
The Barbrous folk to follow had no list;  
Of multitudes their Number did abate,  
For *Romans* sold their lives at dearest rate.

13.

Their number not their Valour overcame,  
As now was plain by keeping home in quiet,  
Yet *Alexander* follows on his game  
At *Antioch* with frolicking and Riot;  
The *Persians* ke are tender of their lives,  
Ay, loving home their children and their Wives.

VVhile



14.

While thus he staid *Illyrian* Posts came hether,  
And Message brought how *German* past the *Rhine* aid  
This suddaine newes perplex him more then ever,  
To heare the Northern Rebels lewd designs,  
He all must lose, or make halt, chafe him whether,  
And bring his losses ere more of thei combine,  
They Havoock make great Cities burbe and Villages,  
And round about the Country sacks and pillages.

15.

This tale him vext and eke *Illyrians* grievd,  
Their fellowes late in *Persia* put to slaughter,  
(He staid behind that should have them relieved  
And now their friends by *German* shortly after,  
They were at him exceedingly enraged,  
That them betrayd when they for him engaged.

16.

Now *Alexander Italy* doth feare,  
*Illyria* was for that the only Bar,  
The Eastern Nations seldom of it heare,  
Disjoynd both by Sea and Land so farr;  
To make new Warr the time doth him constraine,  
Though he had rather llay then take the pain.

17.

Yet now (though loth) he makes an expedition,  
His Forts and Sconces fortifies at home,  
Then Northward goes to make due inquisition,  
And when his Souldiers all are to him come,  
Encampeth on the River Banks of *Rhine*,  
Then Bridge of Ships and Barges doth Assigne.

18.

Ore *Rhine* and *Ister* men in Summer sayle,  
The Channels of them both are deep and broad,  
But in the Winter froze with Snow and Haile,  
And Ice so thick they beare a mighty load,  
To carry Water, pitchers they have none,  
But hewes out Ice, and beares it like a stone.

19.

This Army had some Regiments of *Swiss*  
And goodly Band of Archers from the East,  
With *Parthian* Fugitives mix'd from their doors,  
All these the *German* People much infest;  
The nimble *Swiss* at Distance cast their Darts,  
And Archers hit their naked Heads or Harts;  
And some upon the Countess' Jacks and Billages

Nimble footed.

20.

But when it came to blow the *German* were  
Not much Inferior to the *Roman* Foot,  
Which *Alexander* put in glorious Foes;  
Who Ouz'd Peace with more of Gain to boot;  
The *German* always greedy are of Ghelt,  
Well known to him that thus their pulses felt.

21.

And he himselfe was weary of the Warr,  
Which made him thus Assay to buy his Peace;  
The Souldiers from this Bargaine were as fast  
They fought for gallant service more then ease;  
His mind (say they) is more of Maliques and Revels  
Then to correct the Barbarous *German* Rebels.

22.

Now in this Army was one *Maximine*,  
Borne at a Village neer the Tumult *Thrace*,  
In younger yeares he was a Shepherd's waine,  
But afterwards became of comely Grace;  
He chosen was to serve in Troope of Horse,  
Where he improved well in skill and Force.

23.

Command of Townes and Armies he obtain'd,  
And now by *Alexander* is employ'd,  
Nought wanting from the Noble Youth remain'd,  
To learn of him they all were overjoy'd,  
By sleight and Gifts he doth their Favour gain,  
They all were linkt to him as in a Chain.

24

Panegyrics most were those of younger sort  
For Prowesse that doe Maximine regard  
They shew the matter now was not in sports  
Yet Alexander still his Mothers Ward  
How he inclin'd to Revell and to Feare  
And lost his expedition in the Field

25

Nor ought materiall gainst the French done  
These things they often had in reputation  
Upon an other point they also sue  
None for the Empire stood in Competition  
Or fitter then their fellow Maximine  
To end the work upon the River Rhene

26

Reforting thus into the Field in Arms  
When Maximine to traine them was addrest  
They Emprour him taught with true Alarms  
And then with Purple Robes doe him invest  
Which he drew off; My Friends, quoth he, forbear  
Till I have heard them vow and Swear

27

If he refuse: now if this were a pipe  
Uncertain is, and yetteth still in doubt  
Yet they resolve, though it were to or not  
The Sovereigne Rule he must not be without  
Then faineth he, this Oracle's foretold  
So doth submit and will the Empire hold

28

And since the Army needs will have it so  
Before the Rumour shall spread be spread  
Or that Alexander may be forced  
They shall surprize him though it be in bed  
His Guard that knows not what is done in Field  
Must give consent or be compelled to yield

VVkh

29.

With Donatives he doth the Souldiers cheer,  
 And promis'd them a double share of Corn,  
 Then forth to *Alexander* march in fear  
 He leads them on as if a man forlorne;  
 Who manly leapt out of his Royall Tent,  
 Yet wept and tremble'd all the way he went;

30.

Accusing *Maximé* as most ungrate  
 For Honours done him, perjur'd and disloyall;  
 The Souldiers rage he strives to mitigate,  
 Of his amends they shall have open Trial:  
 The Guards that was about him swear devoutly  
 They will Assist him and defend him stoutly.

31.

When night was past and *Maximé* at hand,  
*Alexander* came back into the Plain;  
 But when he saw of Foes a mighty Band,  
 He minds the *Revolt* of his gentle Raigne,  
 And prays them Arm to vindicate his Right;  
 Some grieve, some pittie'd him, but none would fight.

32.

Some wish'd the Praefect and his Courtiers might  
 Receive the meed of their deserved blame;  
 Some said this blow should on his Mother light,  
 That Souldiers scanted, and debas'd his Fame;  
 While thus they parle, what was wrong or right,  
*Maximé's* Army to persuade them came;  
 They wish'd them leave this puny Prince and Mother,  
 For skill in Arms they now had chose Another.

33.

Then as they Vote for Banish *Maximé*,  
 Back *Alexander* went into his Tent;  
 Reproving sore his Mothers lewd designs;  
 But now it seems too late he did repent:  
 His debts man he expecteth out of hand,  
 For *Maximé* the Tribunes doth Command

Extreme calamities  
 found the spir-  
 rit.

To

34.

To put them both unto a sudden death,  
 With all their friends and such as did resist;  
 They rush'd into his Tent and stop't the breath  
 Of all save few that by escape they mist:  
 Yet they were apprehended shortly After,  
 And added to the former bloody Slaughter.

35.

This epd had both the Mother and the Son;  
 A gentle Prince of mild and temp'rate Raigne;  
 His Edict was, none should to death be done  
 Except the Law did first inflict the pain:  
 His Rule and he much Longer might have lasted,  
 Had not his Mother thus his Honour blasted.

### *The End of the Sixth Book.*

X

The





## The Seventh Book.

## CANTO XIX.

## The ARGUMENT.

*Magnus Quartrous Prince against his will,  
 A trick the Traitor Macedon to coole,  
 Romans and Germans are at Battell still,  
 They fight like mad men in a dirty Poole;  
 Maximine cruel by Informing Dolis,  
 At Rome they are devout, Atrick revolts.*

1.

**Y**OU see the Fatall end of these two Brothers,  
 How Pride and Lucre taught them to Aspire;  
 Which also brought Confusion to their Mothers,  
 Who for that purpose did with them conspire:  
 Yet time nor death we see of foe or friend  
 Instructs our lives or manners to amend.

2.

The Fourteen years of former gentle Raig  
 Receiv'd a strange and sudden Alteration,  
 For *Maximine* that caus'd them to be slain,  
 Was low of Birth and Barb'rous Education;  
 By *Bloud* he meant the Scepter to maintaine,  
 No whit asham'd of his Assassination:  
 He knew the Senate lik'd not his proceeding,  
 But would despise the baseness of his Breeding.

Right.

3.

Right well they knew he was a Shepherd bred,  
Then for his Active strength a Soldier prest;  
So Fortune meerly by the hand him led  
Thus in the Roman Empire to invest:  
His spleen and cunning shortly he disclos'd,  
And all the Ancient Senate discompos'd,

4.

With other Officers, upon pretence  
They knew not how to govern in their places;  
To Rome they must, he quickly packt the hmnence,  
And *Alexanders* Servants eke disgraces:  
The Nobles gone he set afoot his Tyranny  
With Souldiers aid, and plotted further villany.

5.

A chance there hapt which made him much more keen,  
Some Captaines and the Senat did conspire:  
A Noble man there was that hight \* *Quartius*,  
And Consull once, him most of them desire;  
He to this Emp'rour was accus'd in Briefe,  
How with his friends he dealt to make him chiefe.

\* *Magnus  
Quartius.*

6.

When *Maximins* the Sovereignty had got,  
By deeds of Arms the Souldiers to confirm,  
He built a Bridge, and thus was laid the Plot,  
Or at the least some so much did Affirme;  
That from the *Germanis* he might not returne,  
*Magnus* devis'd they should it cut or burne.

7.

\* He chosen was for skill in those Affaires,  
Which *Alexander* did too much neglect;  
But he his Army Trained to the Warrs,  
And they for Action him doe most affect:  
The River was so broad and deep of mire  
When this was done, he could not back retire;

\* *Maximins.*

## 8.

But to the Barbrous folk must be betray'd;  
 Now if this Rumour feigned was or true;  
 It was enough for him it so was said,  
 And such as was suspected soon did rue;  
 For without processe they were forthwith slain,  
 Or other plea that did thereto pertaine.

## 9.

The *Ostroen* Archers first this work began,  
*Magnus* was one of *Alexanders* friends,  
 For whom they griev'd, to him therefore they ran  
 Of late dismiss'd, whom they will make amends;  
 They give him fatall Robe and carry fire,  
 And him to be their Emp'rour they desire.

## 10.

Of this before he neither thought or knew,  
 Then shortly after sleeping in his Tent  
 His friend *Macedon* most unmanly slew,  
 He Captaine was, and first that did Assent;  
 Yet now as he to *Maximine* was true,  
*Quartinius* head he forthwith did present,  
 And he as glad to see him made a way,  
 But *Macedon* must for the Reck'ning pay.

## 11.

Instead of thanks he as the Author Chiefe,  
 Was put to death, and had deserved end,  
 Who now appear'd a Murth'rer and a Thiefe,  
 That first Rebel'd, then kill'd his dearest friend:  
 These matters to the fire added fuell,  
 Though *Maximins* himselfe was fierce and cruell.

## 12.

A mighty Bulke he had and Visage grim,  
 Nor Greek or Barbrous might with him compare;  
 He leads his Army o're the Bridge with him,  
 And on the *German*s makes a cruell Warr,  
 With Darters, Archers, *Roman*s and *Armenians*,  
*Parthian* Fugitives and captiv'd *Astrenians*.

This

13.

This Masse confus'd by *Alexander* raked,  
Was now encreas'd and trained well to fight;  
*Moresco* Darters little more then naked,  
And Archers shew the *German* cunning flight  
They nimble start to work their VVarlike Feats,  
Then back into the grosse as quick Retreats.

14.

Though Corne and Harveft ready was for Sickle,  
The Barb'rous People fled and none refist;  
Their Buildings apt to fire are dwellings fickle,  
He burnt and Pillag'd whatsoe're he list:  
The *German*s rarely Build with Stone or Bricks,  
But little sheds laid o're with boards and sticks.

15.

Thus Ravag'd he and Burnt the Fields amaine,  
And gave the Souldiers Cattell for their prey;  
The Barb'rous left the Champaigne and the Plaine,  
Then to the Boggs and VVoods they hast away;  
There skulk and VVatch Advantage meet to take,  
And when they see their time Eruptions make.

16.

Here Ties will break the Arrowes force and Darts,  
And Boggs unknown the *Romans* dare not venter;  
But these more skilfull in those wilder parts,  
And swimmers good doe make no bones to enter.  
The fight begins which turned to their smarts,  
More boggy Poole was not above the Center;  
The Souldiers with for open Field and Large,  
Yet *Maximie* most bravely gives the Charge.

17.

He plung'd amongst them to the Horses Belly,  
The Barb'rous folk resist and stoutly fight,  
But some he kills and some he treads to Jelly;  
His men asham'd he was so foully dight,  
Leapt after him into this durty Meare,  
Then both sides slash and limbs in peeces teare.

18.

The *Roman* Prince in Person bravely fought,  
*Barbarians* most were kill'd in Mud and Sand;  
 The Purpled Fenns with blood so interwrought,  
 It seem'd a ghastly Sea-fight on the Land;  
 Yet afterwards his Honours came to nought,  
 Though Troops he led and grapled hand to hand:  
 This Battell *Roman* Senate had by Letter,  
 And eke by pourtrait to discern it better.

19.

Soone after that this brave exploit had end,  
 Then did this Champion stout without comparison  
 His boot and Pri'ners (in *Pannonia*) send  
 To *Sirmion* where he kept his VVinter Garison,  
 And there prepar'd his Force against the Spring,  
 At his dispose the Barb'rous folk to bring.

20.

A VVarrour brave and likely to subdue,  
 And at the utmost Ocean set his Rest  
 VVith Glory great, but for the blondy Crew  
 That did the *Roman* People so molest:  
 VVhat better he the Barb'rous folk to kill,  
 VVhen they at *Rome* the blood of Subjects spill?

21.

Informers base not only were permitted,  
 But whetted on good men to Circumvent,  
 And Crimes ript up (perhaps not true) Committed,  
 VVhen former Princes had the Government:  
 So hard their hap convicted by this egging,  
 Some lost their lives, some Rich men went a begging.

22.

This he pretends was for his Souldiers pay,  
 His cares were ope to ev'ry false surmise,  
 Both Consuls and Commanders hal'd away.  
 VVicegeren's eke, with Rich men and the VVife;  
 Informers had admittance night and day,  
 O're East, VVest, North and South they doe Revise;  
 Some stript of their Estates some others Baff'd,  
 Some banish'd were, some d'rd upon a scaffold.



23.

So long as this to private men extends,  
 And doth not Trench upon a Gen<sup>r</sup>all Nation,  
 The Commons seldome mounte the great mens ends,  
 Deprav'd through envy, tax or Molestation:  
 Therefore they stir not, but the matter slighted,  
 And are withall exceeding much delighted.

24.

But *Maximine* with this was not content,  
 To take the Nobles goods and Lives withall,  
 He from the common stock will Force a Rent,  
 And treasure seize laid up in their Guild Hall;  
 The City store, when deare the market growes,  
 To buy them Corne or grace their solemn showes.

25.

He Sacred Donaries from Temples took,  
 With Statues of the gods and Ancient \* *Heroes*;  
 To melt for Coyne he rifled every nook,  
 With Horrid Facts as ill or worse then *Nerees*;  
 This caus'd their lores to rancle and to fester,  
 They now in earnest saw he was no jester.

\* Or Semigods

26.

All o're the City was a mournfull cry  
 To see things Pillag'd, \* Sacred and prophane;  
 No Forraign Force to rob or make them die,  
 And yet their Holy Altars brought to bane:  
 Thus Sacriledg ingendred so much hate,  
 Whole Countries now began to execrate.

\* ROMANS de-  
vout.

27.

The Souldiers also doe not take it well,  
 For that their Friends and kinsfolks them upbraid,  
 Though all might take occasion to Rebell;  
 From gods above they yet implored aid,  
 Desiring them to make their grievance lesse,  
 As being loth to Force their own redresse.

For

28.

For three yeares space he us'd this bloody Traffick,  
 But Tyrants Raigne is fickle and unstable,  
 Revolt and Tumult now began in *Africk*,  
 Of false Promoters thither got a Rabble;  
 At *Carthage* one exceeds in his opinion,  
 For that he was become the Emptours minion.

29.

Indulgent most he to his Checquer Friends,  
 If any just they leane against their will,  
 Lesse honest they more fit to serve his Ends,  
 Their Neighbours goods and lives withall to spill;  
 Young Gentlemen and Citizens not rare,  
 This *African* had got within his snare.

30.

Some at their sentence are extremely griev'd,  
 Yet Promise large their forfeit to redeem,  
 Meane while contrive how they may be reliev'd,  
 And to the Procurator friendly seem;  
 The Country clownes they gaine into their plot,  
 Who come and hide the Weapons they have got.

31.

\* Country  
 people.

Together come they make a mighty Troop,  
 For *Africa* was Populous of \* Boors;  
 When day was come they did no longer droop,  
 But cheerfully advancing out of doores,  
 The Gentlemen Command not yet to A&,  
 Left Souldiers hinder their intended Fa&.

32.

The Gallants in their Bosoms hide their Daggers,  
 To pay the promis'd money they pretend;  
 But Instantly the Procurator Staggers,  
 For him they slew and brought to sudden end:  
 As Souldiers draw their swords to Rescue knaves  
 The Country men resist with Clubs and Staves.

They

33.

They laid about and put them all to flight,  
Which done the Gentlemen resolve in fine  
To stand it out if it were wrong or right :  
And thus they pitch upon a high design ;  
The Governour must now be of their Faction,  
They purpose to imbarke him in this Action.

34.

The Commons eke they stirr up to rebell,  
And apt they are save fear of *Maximins* ;  
They march whereas the Governour did dwell,  
*Proconsull* he at age of Seventy nine,  
One *Gordian* well seen in state Affaires,  
The fittest man to ease them of their cares.

35.

They have good hope of *Roman* Peers Assent  
This to Conferr, his other Acts to crowne ;  
He Noble was by Birth, of high descent,  
And best deserv'd the place of Chiefe Renown :  
While thus of weighty matters they dispose,  
He kept at home intending his Repose.

36.

These Gallants with this Traine and naked Swords,  
Came where this good old man on Couch did rest,  
They him salute by faire and gentle words,  
And so with Purple Robe anon they him Invest ;  
He stirrs about as then the time affords,  
Beseeching them they will not him molest,  
But give unto their Sovereigne what was due,  
And spare his life that no Extortion knew.

37.

But *Gordian* they doe the more importune,  
Who all this while was in a fearfull Maze ;  
They will him to accept this present Fortune,  
As he upon this tumult stood at gaze :  
The Chiefe of them kept out with Sword in hand,  
As in the Canto next you'll understand.

## CANTO XX.

## The ARGUMENT.

Gordian Chose, then follows private Slaughter,  
 Capellian gives to Africans defeat  
 Prince Gordian and his Father dies soon after,  
 Joves Temple Romans chuse their Lawes to treat,  
 Two Consuls Rule the Senate doe desire,  
 Commotion rais'd and Rome is set on fire.

Maximus and  
 albinus,

I.

Let me not have the vulgar for my Judge,  
 Though *Maximus* deserv'd what they intend,  
 Yet oft we see when they begin to grudge,  
 Good Rulers chance upon as Farall end;  
 Of late I told you *Gordian* was afraid,  
 Next heare the Speech that unto him was made:

A Speech to  
 Gordian.

Good Sir, quoth one, two dangers you inclose,  
 The first at hand as wee the cule doe put,  
 The latter time hereafter may disclose,  
 Chuse now if you in pieces will be cut,  
 Or rather to our motion straight incline,  
 To quell that hideous Traytor *Maximino*.

3.

This all your former Noble Acts will Crown,  
 More Honour gaine you from the *Roman* Nation;  
 But if denied, we kill and strike you downe,  
 You may believe our Solemn Protestation:  
 The Procurator hath his due reward,  
 And wee shall Smart if we doe once retard.

Wee

4.

Wee for his Barb'rous Sharking have him slain,  
No hope of Pardon therefore we expect,  
You shall th' Imperiall dignity attaine,  
If you consent to what we did Project  
So you and we shall both escape the blame,  
And purchase to our selves Immortall Fame.

5.

This said, the rest impatient of delay,  
Proclaime him Prince without Procrastination;  
Though coy at first (with Age) as worne away,  
Yet soon they see a little Reluctation:  
He calls them friends, and bids them not to feare,  
At their request the Scepter he will weare.

6.

And hereupon the *Africans* Rebell,  
Put *Gordians* Statues up, *Maximines* down;  
From *Thystrum* he at *Carthage* went to dwell,  
Was there invested with Imperiall Crown:  
This City had fit scite with buildings rare,  
And next to *Rome* with any might compare.

7.

With Gallant Youths he bravely was attended,  
And *Laurell* rods with fire before him borne,  
That *Rome* could not the matter well have mended,  
All *Africa* held *Maximine* in scorn:  
Now *Gordian* writes to private friends and Peers,  
Whom they accept, and gladly him Revers.

8.

To Souldiers and to Commons he was kind,  
Both mild and Just he thus began his Raig;  
Informers run or smart that stay behind,  
Then he commands *Vitalian* shall be slain;  
A bloody Monster that remain'd at *Rome*,  
To *Maximine* a base officious Gro'me.



*Prætorian* was *Prætorian* Præfect;  
 And lest he should be cross'd to his Design,  
 Some daring youths he sent to this Effect,  
 With Letters seal'd as if from *Maximian's*  
 When he in Closet was these Letters reading,  
 They should him stab; not once the matter Pleading.

## 10.

The chance was right, they found him all alone,  
 To shew their writs; and as he view'd the Seales,  
 They gave the Stab which made him sigh and groan,  
 Then made Escape, for none the Fact reveals;  
 Those that attended neither stop nor strike,  
 For *Maximian* did use to doe the like.

## 11.

Such tokens oft he sent to dearest Friends,  
 The youths now hast unto the Sacred way  
 To tell the Message *Gordian* to them sends,  
 Then aid from Consuls and the people pray:  
 They give it out that *Maximian* is slain,  
 Which newes is lik'd, for all detest his Raigne.

## 12.

Distracted like men ran upon these Aires;  
*Maximian's* Honor'd Statues were defaced;  
 The People to the Senate now repairs,  
 And *Gordian* with his Son as Emperours graced:  
 'Mongst base Informers these great Havock makes,  
 Their Agents trail'd and thrown into the Jakes.

## 13.

Some guiltlesse perish'd in these civill broiles,  
 Some houses rife, and their Neighbours plunder,  
 Some Freedome cry, yet stirr up new Garboiles,  
 In time of Peace this bred the greater wonder;  
*Sabinus* them to quiet took great pains,  
 Yet they with Clubs dash'd out his aged brains.

While

14.

While Commons rage the Senate looke about,  
Newes came how *Maximine* was yet alive;  
They send unto the Provinces thoroughout,  
And for their safety doe with them contrive,  
Perswading that they will to them adheare  
Him to depose who kept them all in feare.

15.

Their Embassage was welcome unto most,  
Then all the Catchpole Officers were slaine,  
Whole Provinces Revolt through every coast,  
Except some few that *Maximine* did gain  
To kill the Posts that first the newes somented,  
Or send them to him to be worse tormented.

16.

Though first the newes did nettle to the quick,  
He seem'd not yet the matter to regard;  
Some daies he studied to devise a Trick  
With Counsell how the plot might be debarr'd:  
This accident some said fell in the nick,  
Yet of his spies they kept good watch and Ward:  
With speech compos'd as Pen could well direct,  
He to his \* Army spake to this effect:

*Maximins*  
Speech.

\* This Speech  
was at *Sirmion*  
pen'd by some  
of his counsell.

17.

Newes somewhat strange I shall to you relate;  
Yet not so strange as moving unto laughter,  
Warrs rais'd are against you out of hate;  
Not *Germans* who you oft have put to slaughter,  
Or yet the Nations Bord'ring on the East,  
But *Carthage* will Promote a doting Beast.

Himselfe  
lillicrate..

18.

To Act a King they have advanc'd a cripple,  
What Discipline, but Dances, Jiggs and Quips;  
What weathercocks eke the *Roman* People,  
Appareth by their failings and their slips;  
Though Traiterously they have *Vitalian* slaine,  
When we approach their Projects are in vaine.

19.

No marvell if my continence displease,  
 And valiant Acts reputed are as cruel;  
 Debauched Deeds suits better with their case,  
 And he for this Accounted is a Jewell:  
 The man of whom they make to great bravado,  
 Is Gordian that past past Titulado.

20.

'Gainst such as these we are to make defence,  
 The name of Warr is Epithete unmeer;  
 For if we once doe march away from hence,  
 With Olive Branch they fall down at our feet,  
 Or run away to shun the Fatale blow,  
 That I their goods upon you may bestow.

21.

This said with many thundring Execrations,  
 With stern disdaine full looks and Tragick Action,  
 For Italy he makes his Proclamations  
 To quell the City, Senate and their Faction;  
 Then gives unto the Souldiers Double pay,  
 And forward march'd upon the second day.

22.

ROMANS, GERMANS, Confederates and Allies,  
 With Engins eke 'gainst Barbrous folke prepar'd  
 He took with him, recruiting his supplies;  
 Yet slowly march'd through passage rough and hard,  
 Upon Panonians Chiefly he relies,  
 Who him proclaim'd and was his trusty guard:  
 His Title to secure and their own ease,  
 He them Commands on Italy to seize.

23.

Newes unexpected now from Carthage came,  
 Which in this journey Maximus o'retook;  
 Capellian meant to free himselfe from blame,  
 Numidian \* Charge he had to overlook,  
 Which he assign'd to Maximus good grace,  
 But Gordian late discharg'd him of his place.

\* The most  
 Southerly  
 Province  
 of the Roman  
 Empire.

24.

An Ancient grudge betwix them long had been,  
He therefore relisht this Affront in scorn,  
More expert Souldiers no where to be seen,  
Who long against *Barbarians* Arms had borne;  
To *Carthage* wals he brought them well Arraid,  
Which made old *Gordian* piteously afraid.

25.

The Citizens send out tumultuous crew,  
And chose the yonger *Gordian* for their Chiefe,  
Bred up in sports, their Discipline was new,  
Yet what they could they got for their reliefe;  
This sudden bright great fury burly makes,  
Some Daggers wore, some Clubs, and some had stakes.

26.

*Numidians* good Horlemen were and Darters,  
The *Carthages* were quickly put to rout,  
They make such hast outunning all their Quarters,  
That treading one another under Foot,  
Such numbers fell in heapes upon the ground,  
Some Nobles and the Prince could not be found.

27.

The Women cry and make a grievous moan,  
*Numidians* there children kill and mangle,  
Both old and young were heard to sigh and groan,  
Old *Gordian* (in bed) himselfe did strangle,  
Who Honour had till now and many a friend,  
Thus he and eke his Son came to their end.

28.

*Capellian* Temples robb'd and Nobles flew,  
As if it were in *Maximins* defence,  
Yet secretly he Souldiers to him drew,  
Lest *Maximins* miscarry farr from thence;  
When as these dismall Newes in *Rome* was told,  
Both day and night they Consultation hold.

Joves.

29.

Albinus  
Maximus.

*Joves* Temple was the Seat where they consult,  
In Sacred place they doe his aid implore,  
Then after Counsell this was their result:  
Two Famous men must still this great uprore,  
As to and fro the Senate reason thus,  
They *Albine* chuse with colleague *Maximus*.

30.

But yet the Commons mean to make a broile,  
And seek this new Election how to choke;  
With Stones and Staves and Clubs they keep a coile,  
Nor will submit unto this double yoke.  
The *Gordian* line they will not have secluded,  
Though with a wile the Senate them deluded.

31.

Old *Gordians* Daughter had a little boy,  
Which some lift up and carry through the croud;  
His Name once known the people shout for Joy,  
And him young *Cesar* they proclaim aloud:  
The storm thus past they fall to mirth and Solace,  
Meane while the two Elect march'd to the Palace.

32.

Another mischief follow'd on the neck,  
Some Souldiers that belong'd to *Maximine*,  
At Senate prest, and had unlook'd for check,  
By list'ning how the Senate did incline:  
Those that unarmed plaid this simple part,  
Two Senators \* did stabb unto the hart,

\* In this combustion they wore private Daggers which at other times was not usuall.

33.

The rest that were of this combined Band  
To save their lives betook themselves to flight,  
Then *Gallican* came forth with bloody hand,  
Pursue, quoth he, let vengeance on them light:  
Some People kill with clubs, some stare and stamp,  
Some pelt with Stones and chate them to the Camp.

The



34.

The Souldiers now prepare to man their War,  
And *Gallican* in *Rome* doth raise Commotion  
On publike Armories the People falls,  
There's none of them but relish well the Motion:  
Some come with Swords, some Spears and Battleaxes,  
And now or never think to quit their Taxes.

35.

The Souldiers skilfull drive the Commons back,  
And wounding some the rest seek to retreat,  
Which soone perceiv'd they mean to hold them tack,  
So ope their Gates and give them whole defeat;  
They Actors kill'd and some that were spectators,  
And 'mongst the rest were slain the Gladiators.

36.

This did the *Roman* Senate much enrage,  
They Councell call, then Arm a Gallant crew;  
And *Maximus* with them doth first Engage,  
Yet Souldiers of his men great numbers slew:  
*Albinus* sends an Edict forth in hast  
To make them friends, and pardon what is past.

37.

Both parties scorne to yield to this Decree,  
The Commons chokt the Springs that serv'd the Camp,  
A worse devise then this there could not be;  
But now the Souldiers angry cuds doe champ,  
Then forth they rush and fight till all retire,  
And in pursuit they set great *Rome* on fire.

38.

To stop the flame both Rich and poor Turmoile,  
Some carry hooks, some water Conduits turne,  
But yet the Souldiers load themselves with spoile,  
Though Innocents within the houses burne;  
Thus did this raging fire without all pity,  
More houses burn then would have made a City.

Z

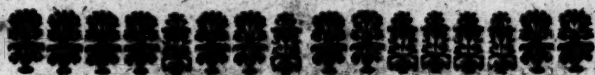
While

While thus at *Rome* these Fatall broiles arise,  
 In *Italy* doth *Maximins* Arive;  
 At Altars oft he did his Sacrifice,  
 And hopes his preience there shall make him thrive.  
 How he and his adherents came to fare,  
 The Canto next ensuing will declare.

### *The End of the Seventh Book.*

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The



The Eighth Book.

CANTO XXI.

The ARGUMENT.

*Scoots and Maximines Souldiers good Aray,  
Of Ems, Alps, Aquileia wee define,  
Crispinus next then message wee display  
Unto Aquileia sent by Maximine,  
Crispinus speech, god Bet, Assault in vain,  
The Romans prudenc, Maximine is slain.*

1.

**W**Hen grace doth want, no strength can along avail,  
No Confidence in Charrets or in Horses;  
Now *Maximines* great Boasts begin to faile,  
Though he was mighty both in Bulk and Forces:  
Our projects and our plots grow out of season,  
When once the will prevails above our reason.

2.

Yet Gins he sets in ev'ry nook and Angle,  
And pries in bottomes for the Ambuscadoes;  
He calls his Legions into form Quadrangle,  
To Circumvent his Enemies Bravadoes:  
Himself and Guard doe follow in the rear,  
His Horse compleatly Arm'd with Shield and Spear.

3.

*Moresco* Darters, Archers of the East,  
His *German* Horse he marshall'd in the Front;  
The shock at first to undergoe at least,  
Both grim and fierce they were to bide the bunt:  
By this you see it was his drift and scope,  
To place *Barbarians* in the Forlorn Hope.

Z. 2

In

In Battell-ray they marched o're the Plaine,  
 And at the City *Ema* did Arrive  
 But all the dwellers thence to fly were faine,  
 As having little hope thercinto thrive:  
 They Temples burnt with Gates and all the rest,  
 And no provision left for man or beast.

5.

Full glad was bulky *Maximins* of this,  
 He thought the rest for fear would make him way;  
 The Souldiers pincht with want yet did not misse,  
 But marched to the \* *Alps* by break of day:  
 Then feare of Ambush made them slack their pace,  
 And caule they had to doubt that sleepey place.

\* Seeme to be  
 above the  
 Clouds, reach  
 over all *Italy*  
 from *Tyrrhen*  
 Seato the *Ionian*  
 bay, now the  
 Gulph of  
*Venice*.

\* Lauds and  
 Hymns.

But when they past the *Alps* without en stop,  
 They *Beams* sing \* with Joy and merry cheare,  
 For *Maximins* discerned from the top  
 Th' *Italians* fled, posselt with Panick feare;  
 Successe, quoth he, must needs to us redound,  
 Now they forsake the vantage of the ground.

7.

\* The greatest  
 City then of  
*Italy*, now  
*Algar*.

*Aquileia* \* yet against them shut her Gates,  
 To which *Pannonians* gave a fierce Assault;  
 But they (by Spears and stones) with broken pates  
 (And Arrow shot) give back and make a halt:  
 When *Maximins* his stoutest men forsake it,  
 Himselfe makes hast to try if he could take it.

8.

This City was both Populous and great,  
 To all the Coasts a Famous Towne of Mart,  
 Who thither brought Commodities and Meats,  
 From Sea and Land by Industry or Art;  
 Provision thus arriving at their shore,  
 Besides their own Invited Strangers store,

The



The Villagers for safetie thither fled,  
Some to their Friends, and some to get reward,  
Of multitudes thus was the City sped,  
Their Gates they Close and Walls doe bravely Guard;  
Two Noble Consuls \* were in stead of Liege,  
That made provision for a lasting siege.

\* Crispinus,  
Menipbilus.

10.

Both springs they had and River by their Wall  
Instead of which, which serv'd for great defence;  
A Court of Warr now *Maximine* doth call,  
And message did propound to send from thence;  
These men, quoth he, are Souldiers good and tall,  
Wee therefore must insatuate their fence:  
He Captaines had whole children were within,  
These men he sends and they their speech begin;

Thence called  
*Aquileia*.

11.

How *Maximine* their Sovereigne Liege and Lord  
Doth will them lay down Arms to live in peace,  
He as a Friend is ready to Accord,  
Will former faults remit and give release:  
Them to destroy by him is much abhor'd,  
From Countreys ruine if they yet will cease:  
He knowes withall your loving Inclination,  
And doth believe 'tis others Intigation.

Message to the  
*Aquileians*.

12.

This neer the Walls was told by his Commity,  
And they above doe give attentive ear;  
*Crispinus* doubting they within the City  
Might ope their Gates, surpriz'd with sudden fear,  
He runs about and doth them all adjure,  
Beseeching them with patience to endure,

*Crispinus*  
Speech.

13.

And bravely for your countrey fight in Barr,  
Gainst Tyrants pride and his alluring words;  
Far better is the Fortune of the Warr  
Freedome to gain by your victorious Swords:  
Although they seem the stronger in your view,  
Great numbers oft are vanquished by few.

Men



14.

Men fight in others quarrell with lesse hart,  
 No Glory get yet undergoes the danger :  
 But each of you in this have equal part  
 To save your own not injuring a stranger :  
 Resist them bravely on these certaine grounds,  
 For to your selves this victory redounds.

15.

*Crispinus* thus (of Reverend Alpect)  
 With Eloquence the Búrgers to perswade,  
 That they might seem the Agents to neglect,  
 And Arm themselves the Tyrant to degrade;  
 The entrailles promise faire as say their \* Sages,  
 Much credit give *Italians* to preiages.

\* Diviners.

16.

\* God *Bel*, vid.  
*Selden de dis*  
*Syn.*  
 \* *Maximines*.

Of Oracles besides they make report,  
 Their Patriall god some \* *Bel*, some call *Apollo* ;  
 The \* Souldiers said they saw him oft resort,  
 And fighting in the Sky their Troops to follow :  
 If this they said that they might not be \* shent,  
 Or ce foil'd the Brute was clea'd by the event.

\* To save  
 their credit  
 being repulst.

17.

The Agents thus come back without successe,  
 And *Maximine* in Choler maketh speed,  
 A River broad and deep was in excesse,  
 The Bridges broke his cumber more to breed ;  
 This River like their own some *Germans* dream  
 That made attempt, but perisht'd in the stream.

18.

His Army he intrench'd to shun surprize,  
 For want of Barge another course is taken ;  
 To build a Bridg his Engineers devise,  
 With empty Casks they found in Townes forsaken :  
 And these to fetch away his Horsemen gallops,  
 Which being bound together float like shallops.

This

19.

This work to see him selfe took great delight,  
So past his Army over near the City,  
Out-Vines and Orchards made a gallant fight,  
Which Souldiers Burnt devoid of shame or pity;  
Encamping them from danger of their Borders,  
He frames his Squadrons into severall Orders.

20.

Assault was given after one daies rest,  
They shoot and sling and barter Camisadoes;  
Both parts endeavour now to doe their best,  
On every side the Wall they make scaladoes;  
*Aquileians* also brave resistance make,  
For City, Lives, and all are at the stake.

21.

The Suburb Buildings all were haled downe,  
And Engins framed on the Timber work;  
Now *Maximins* begins to rage and frown,  
Such deadly feud doth in his bosome lurk:  
To *Rome* (because this City him withstood)  
He will not goe but thorow streams of blood.

22.

He and his Son young *Cesar* ride about,  
And promises the Souldiers great reward,  
Whom from the Towne with stones they pelt and elout,  
Nor doe their numbers any thing regard:  
On those that scale the Wall and passe the ditch  
They from above poure down hot scalding Pitch.

23.

Their Bodies scorched, their Armour off they strip,  
The Liquor scalded so without remorse,  
Detpoyled so they tasted of the whip,  
By nimble wit more then by open Force;  
They also fir'd their Engins and their Carts  
With brands of Pitch and Rosin sharp as Darts.

Both

24.

Both sides with equall terror fought awhile,  
 But soone the Souldiers to Assault are slack;  
 Unequall number did them first beguile,  
 Till thus the Town had beat them bravely back;  
 And *Maximian* that lately made such vaunts,  
 He and his Son are scoff'd with bitter taunts.

25.

But when he saw he could not have his Will,  
 In rage he waxt and bristled like a Bore,  
 Some of his Captaines he Commands to kill,  
 The rest ere long doe mean to quit the score;  
 The bloody Deeds which he hath done of late,  
 From both sides now engender equall hate.

26.

*Aquileians* stored were for man and Beast.  
 But *Maximian* were pinched sore with want:  
 They spoil'd the fruits which now would be a Feast,  
 For all provision grew exceeding scant:  
 The *Romans* also had so blockt the way,  
 That Famine much encreased every day.

27.

Some Nobles eke were by the Senate sent  
 Port-Townes to Guard, and every Neighbour Coast,  
 That *Maximian* could know how nothing went  
 At *Rome*, where he intends to rule the Roast;  
 Encumbred thus he doth his Choller vent,  
 But this was it which him perplexed most,  
 He could not take the Town with all his Art,  
 Nor get to *Rome* for want of Barg and Cart.

28.

In *Italy* the People all conspire,  
*Barbarians* eke in East and in the South;  
 The Souldiers too provoked are to Ire,  
 And all on him exclaim with open mouth;  
 Their drink was such as came from dirt and mire  
 They water want to satisfy their drouth:  
 Dead carcases polluted had the River,  
 For they that lost their lives were thrown in thither.

The

29.

The Army now in this extreame distresse,  
 And *Maximins* reposing in his Tent,  
 Because they saw no hope to have redresse,  
 Some Souldiers of the Camp unto him went,  
 For Famine had them brought so lean and meaguer,  
 That they resolve to quit this pinching Leaguer.

30.

And this to doe, no better way they find  
 Then *Maximins* to kill, and eke his Son,  
 His Guard was also privie to their mind,  
 Thus all agreed this happy Deed was done;  
 Their Carcasses exposed were to scorn,  
 And both their Heads forthwith to *Rome* were born.

31.

Their Government deserved had no lesse,  
 His Pictures now and Ensigns they doe teare;  
 Those being dead that did them sore oppresse,  
 Both *Italy* and they were void of feare:  
 Thus came this bloody Tyrant to his end,  
 That did the *Roman* State in pieces rend.

32.

The Army thowas struck into amaze,  
 All were not pleas'd at this their sudden Action;  
*Pannonians* and the *Thracians* came apace;  
 Yet when they see the most were of this Faction,  
 To say the plot was right they thought it best,  
 And made a shew of Joy with all the rest.

A

CANTO



## CANTO XXII.

## The ARGUMENT.

*News came that caus'd a Jubile at Rome,  
 Triumphant Embassage comes next in play,  
 Maximus and Albinus dreadful doome,  
 Who first are stript and beaten by the way:  
 Prætorian Souldiers did this wicked Deed,  
 And Gordian Cæsar placed in their freed.*

1.

**I**F good men fall we pity them at least,  
 Not so when Tyrants have deserved end;  
 Good Conscience maketh up a daily Feast,  
 But Horror to the guilty God doth send:  
 As *Maximino* to all that run his race,  
 Must die detested, Infamous and bale.

2.

The Souldiers laying now aside their Arms,  
 Like men of Peace goe boldly to the City,  
 The Tyrant dead they doubt no more Alarms,  
 As Friends, say they, accept of us for pity:  
 The Captaines yet this motion doe reject,  
 And shew them Pictures of the three Elect;

3.

Adorn'd with *Laurell* Crownes in open view,  
 Whom they revere with Joyfull Acclamations,  
 And wish'd the Souldiers to agnize their due,  
 So *Roman* Senate make their Proclamations:  
 If you expect to have our free Accords,  
 You must receive them for your Sovereigne Lords.

This



4.  
This said, they gave them Market on the Walls,  
Which they embrace with glad and willing hearts,  
Of Wine and Bread and sustenance not small;  
*Aquileia* stored was from severall parts,  
Apparell, shooes, of nothing they were scant,  
This Souldiers wan regarding their own want.

5.  
They saw there was no hope to bide the Siege,  
But Famine rather likely to befall;  
Well satisfied they were with their new Liege,  
And partly friendly neer the City Wall:  
Thus Peace and Warr appeared both at once,  
The Gates yet shut they lodg in Camp and sconce.

6.  
Thus at \* *Aquileia* while these matters past,  
Some Posts to *Rome* were sent with Tyrants head,  
With *Laurels* in their hands the People hast,  
Shouting for Joy that *Maximine* is dead;  
And by the way the Emp'rours new elect  
Were raising Force the outrage to correct.

Of *Aquileia* see  
Plin. lib. 3. c.  
13.

7.  
Some aid of Ancient Love the *Germans* sent,  
Thus they a mighty Host did then prepare;  
But both their heads the Messengers present,  
And tell them how this Labour they may spare;  
Take part with *Romans* now the Army me'nt,  
And Honour those whom Senate did declare:  
At this good newes they make the Altars smook  
For vict'ry got not striking once a stroak.

Victoria  
Impulverea.

8.  
When *Maximus* had done his Sacrifice,  
Two Knights on Lances both the heads doe beare  
Once come to *Rome*, the glad some People rise,  
And Jubile Proclaime for that whole yeare:  
None can expresse their extasy of Joy.  
For Tyrants death that did their State Annoy.

\* Horse-race  
yard would  
contain above  
200000:  
\* Hundred of  
Beeves,

They cluster thick into the publike \* Cirque,  
Whole \* Hecatombs *Albino* sacrific'd,  
The Magistrates and Nobles went to Kirke,  
They now appeare that were before disguis'd,  
For feare to lose their beads they cease to moan,  
The axe that threatned theirs had lost its own.

16.

\* A sea town  
belonging to  
*Venice*.  
\* *Eridanus* and  
other Rivers.  
See *Pl. l. 3. r. 16*

Thus Posts and Heralds sent with *Laurell* Brance  
To every Coast and Province round about,  
With Holiday at *Rome* they leap and Dance,  
Then marcheth *Maximus* the marshes out  
*Ravenia* \* from, the *Aquileians* he greets,  
And past the place where seven Channels \* meets.

11.

\* Triumphant  
Embassy.

The *Aquileians* ope their gates discharg'd of Bands,  
Prime Agents come from all the Cities round,  
With Vestures \* white, and *Laurels* in their hands;  
Their Guardian gods with massie Gold were crown'd,  
These Images were bought with goods and Lands,  
And now amongst the *Donaries* were found.

\* A Roman  
Cecemony.

Thus *Maximus* the ydoe congratulate,  
And green leaves on him heap a sign \* of state.

12.

The Souldiers also met like men of Peace,  
But their submit was through Accommodation,  
Their spoile and plunder being like to cease,  
He being dead that serv'd their inclination;  
When *Maximus* had done his Sacrifice,  
He to the Army spake as was the guile:

13.

*Maximus*  
Speech.

To joyn with *Romans* now the sweet you find,  
A Joyfull peace instead of Warr and hate;  
Besides you save the Oath that did you bind,  
The mist'ry Sacred of the *Roman* State;  
Long may you keep these benefits in mind,  
And not be mov'd to stir up new debate:  
But give to them and us all due content,  
Whom they have chose for worth and high Descent.

To

14.

To Empire none hath Patrimoniall right,  
But you and wee are joynt Administrators;  
The City is indeed an Empreſſe bright,  
Both Peers and Commons ought to weigh theſe matters:  
If you your ſelves as Liege men doe contain,  
We ſhall to you return our Care againe.

15.

You ſourish ſhall and have a happy Peace,  
The Provinces about you will have truce,  
All hazard of your lives and goods ſhall ceaſe,  
By your example all of theſe conduce;  
Wee being two that undergoe the load,  
Shall quiet all Domeltick and abroad.

16.

Wee ſhall Aſſiſtance give to one another,  
Nor think revenge againſt you will be fought,  
Both *Rome* and we will love you as a brother,  
Perdy you did but what Commanders taught:  
Let all that's paſt betwixt us be forgotten,  
And live in League when Tyrant's dead and rotten.

17.

Thus ſaid, he promis'd them a large amends  
Then at *Aquila* makes a ſhort reſpoſe,  
From thence he went to *Rome* to meet his Friend,  
Part of his Army to their ſtation goes;  
The Pikemen of his Guard attend him muſt,  
And *German* aids in whom he moſt did truſt.

18.

He Nobly Govern'd when he had that place;  
Now when he made his entry into *Rome*,  
*Albinus* and young *Cæſar* came apace,  
Both Peers and Commons bid him welcome home;  
Some give him gifts with due Congratulations,  
Him all receive with joyfull Acclamations.

A. 3.

Thus.

19.

Thus for a while they Govern'd well and right,  
 And all the Common People were content;  
 But Soldiers cankred hearts were full of spite  
 At their Applause that were of high Delicent;  
 The *Germanus* in their Office were not Idle,  
 Kept as they thought their Insolence to bridle.

20.

\* The *Præ-*  
*torians*.

\* This Feast  
 kept yearly to  
 Jove for pre-  
 serving the  
 Capitoll.

Their \* outrages confronted thus, they feare  
 Lest some such Train'd *Severus* erst invented  
 Might quite degrade them and their Bands Cashiere,  
 Or the *Germanus* for that place indent'd;  
 Wherefore at Solemne Feasts \* Capitoline,  
 Where sports & shewes were grac'd with eates & wine,

21.

They to the Palace run in Bedlam rage,  
 And will the good old Emperours surprise,  
 Though they in all the rest were grave and sage,  
 'Bout Sovereign Rule to strive they were not wise:  
*Albinus* double Consull least despaires,  
 And *Maximus* for skill in State-Affaires.

22.

For Birth and Worth 'twas hard to find a best,  
 And each to yeeld to other were as loth;  
 But yet their strife in this unwise contest  
 Was ruine and destruction to them both:  
*Maximus* heard *Prætorians* were the Jury,  
 And sends for *German* Guards to stop their Fury.

23.

Although they both in danger were of Murther,  
 And that these Troops the Traytors might have match'd,  
*Albinus* wils they shall proceed no further,  
 Lest he alone should be the man dispatch'd;  
 For well he knew they *Maximus* Adore,  
 'Cause he their Province rul'd so well before.

Præ-

24.

*Pratorians* therefore he would not repress,  
So uncontrouled is the hand of Fate;  
But said the *Germans* would him selfe suppress,  
And *Maximus* invest in Sovereign State  
While this Imparlanee kept them at a bay,  
The Souldiers come and doore Keepers give way.

25.

The good old men they hale out of the Court,  
And raging mad doe har'rouly intreat 'em;  
They teare their clothes in most unseemly sort,  
Then pull their beards and by the way doe beate 'em:  
If of these Crimes us any one convinces,  
These are (say they) but Senatorian Princes.

26.

To th' Camp they hurried them through mid't of City,  
Intending not to kill them in the Palace,  
But torture them alive without all pity,  
For greater paine, and more to shew their malice;  
But fearing now the Guards would pay their costs,  
Who came emaine, they cut the Emp'rours throats.

27.

Whom baffled thus with all kind of despite,  
Their Corps into the open way they threw,  
Then held \* up *Gordian* *Cesar* in their sight,  
And said to him the Princely Throne is due;  
Wee kill'd but those whom Commons so rejected,  
And in their stead young *Gordian* have elected.

\* Of this Ceremony vid.  
Pet. Pathe ad-  
versar. l. 2. c. 6

28.

He Nephew is to elder *Gordian*,  
Whom they and Nobles forc'd to be our Prince,  
You cannot say there was a better man  
That rul'd us long before or ever since;  
So taking him to th' Camp to lodg and diet,  
They lockt their Gates and after this were quier.

The



29.

The *Germans* find the Massacre is ended,  
 And think it best to make a brave retreat,  
 Since what is done and past cannot be mended,  
 They being dead for whom they were in heat.  
 These Emperours both were Gloriously defended,  
 The which *Prætorians* thus did kill and bear:  
 And now young *Gracian* aged thirteen year,  
 Began his Reign and rul'd the *Roman* Spear.

30.

The Fate of twenty *Cæsars* here at full  
 Presented is, the rest may have the chance  
 To wake some other pen, for mine is now dull,  
 Nor can my ruder lines their Fame or Name;  
 I told you at the first I had no skill,  
 Yet hope you may accept of my good will.

31.

With care they got a Crown upon their head,  
 And here you see how dismall were their ends  
 Scarce three of them did die upon their Beds,  
 A warning good to me and all my Friends;  
 If you be pleas'd for more I do not look,  
 In Love to you this taske I undertooke.

FINIS.

